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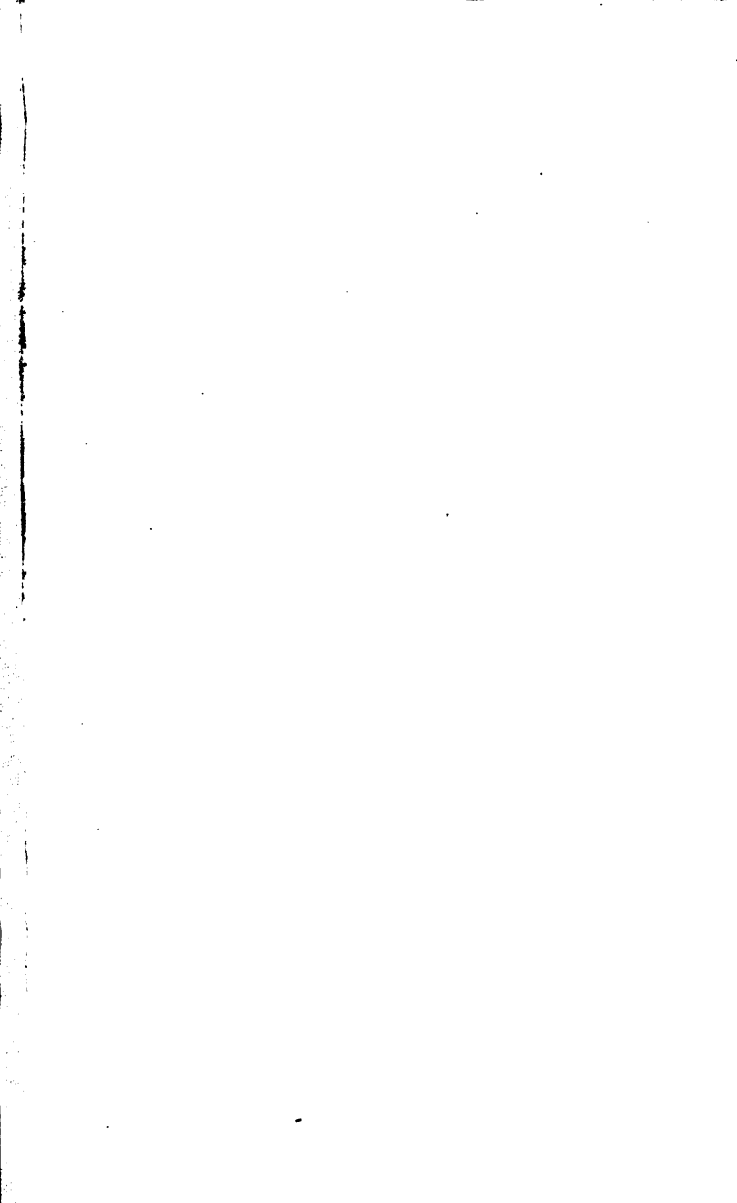
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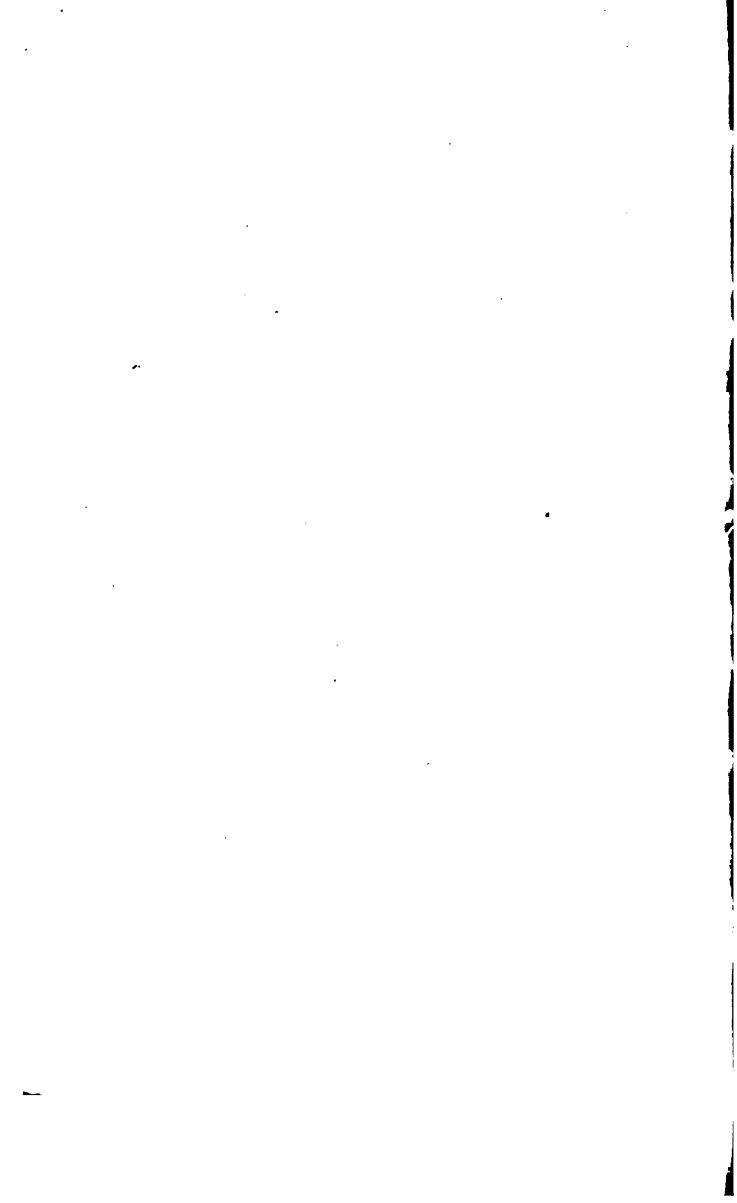


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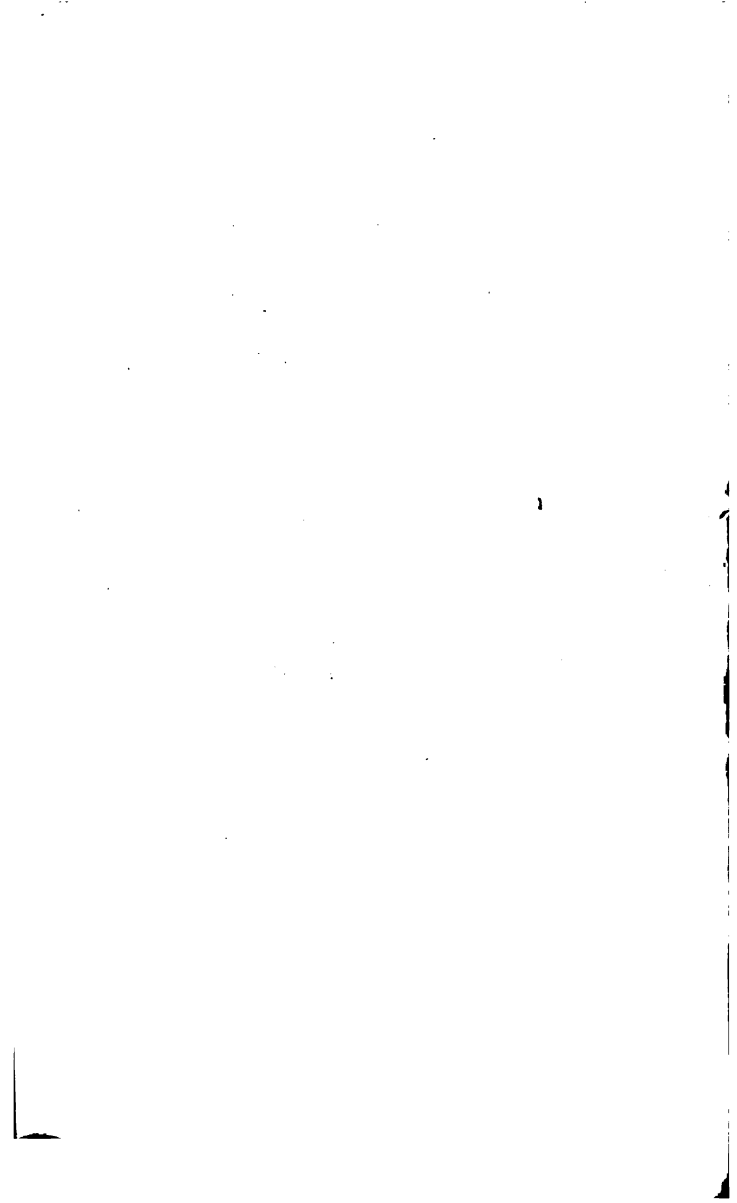
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**THE HORSE AND HIS MASTER.**



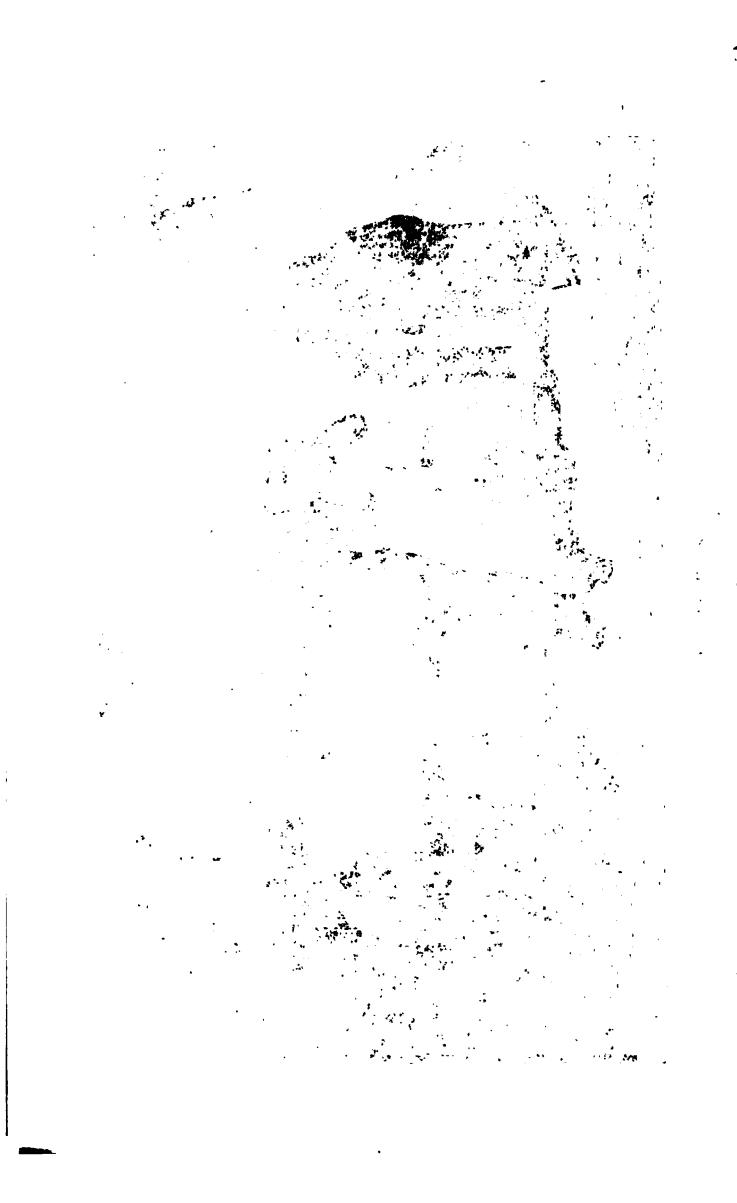


# **THE HORSE AND HIS MASTER.**

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# THE HORSE AND HIS MASTER.

WITH HINTS ON

BREEDING, BREAKING, STABLE-MANAGEMENT, TRAINING,

ELEMENTARY HORSEMANSHIP, RIDING TO HOUNDS,

&c.

BY VERE D. HUNT, ESQ.

LATE 109TH REGT. CO. DUBLIN MILITIA.

"A man of kindness to his beast is kind,  
But cruel actions show a brutal mind.  
Remember, He who made thee, made the brute;  
Who gave thee speech and reason, formed him mute.  
He can't complain, but God's all-seeing eye  
Beholds thy cruelty, and hears him sigh.  
He was designed thy servant, not thy drudge;  
But know! that his Creator is thy Judge."

LONDON

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, LONGMANS, & ROBERTS.

1859



ARABIAN HORSE.

# AL. HOUNE AND HIS BATTLE.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

BY THE LATE B. CARING, BATTLE MAGAZINE, &c. &c. &c.  
CONTAINING THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THE BATTLE.

AND

BY ALBERT D. HOUNE, Esq.

Author of the "HISTORY OF THE BATTLE."

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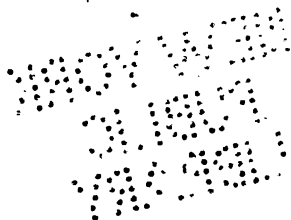
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TO  
BERNAL OSBORNE, ESQ., M.P.

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AS A TRIFLING TRIBUTE TO HIS KNOWN LOVE OF THE ANIMAL

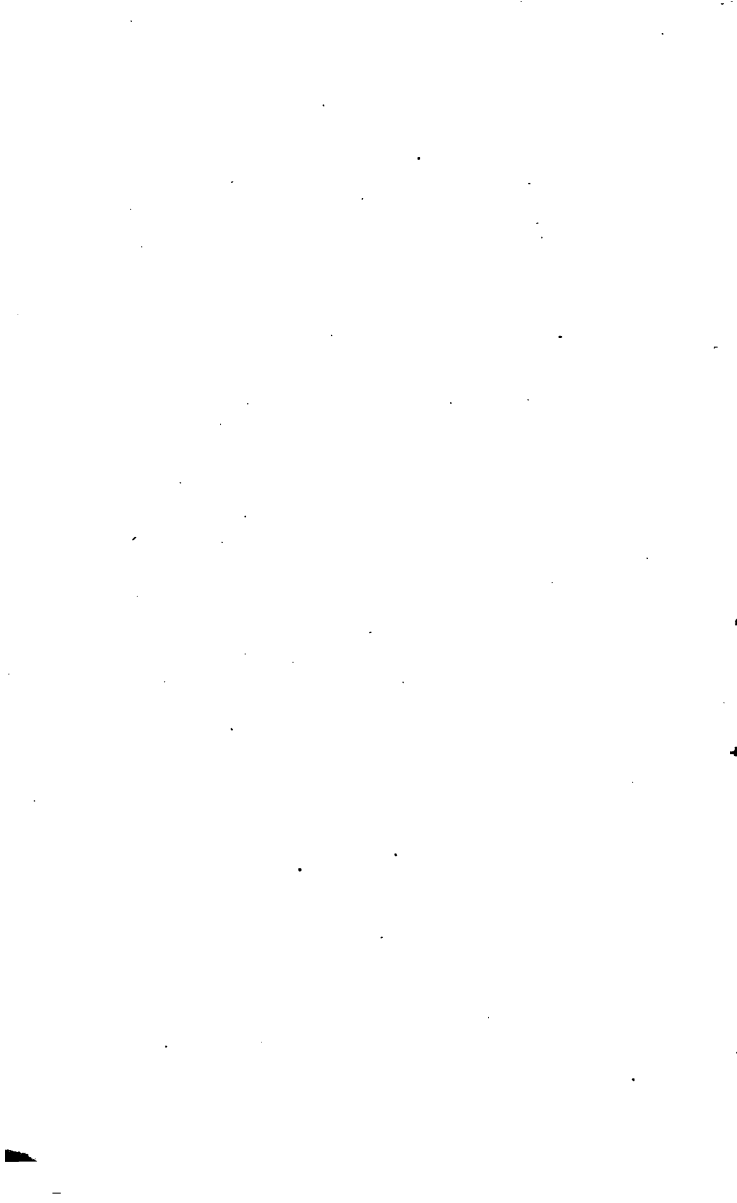
WHOSE CAUSE IT ASPIRES TO ADVOCATE,

AS WELL AS TO HIS CONSPICUOUS MERIT,

BY HIS FAITHFUL SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

Windsor (list-4) 12 Ap. 97



## PREFACE.

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THE serious degeneracy of late years in the breed of our general horses has become too notorious to need further allusion than that of passing notice, thoroughly to arouse all interested parties to the magnitude of the evil, and its too apparent and far too general existence. To the Author, as well as to many more able penmen, the natural questions have arisen from this state of things, — How have they come about? and, What can be done to remedy them? A train of thought bearing upon the evils, and the cause of them, was engendered; and in his own homely fashion

he has endeavoured to lay his views before the public, with very great diffidence as an Author, but with most perfect reliance upon the stability of their basis.

With the kind acquiescence of Mr. Clarendon, I have given a synopsis of his mode of Breaking, and his views upon Practical Horsemanship, being in entire concurrence with my own: and, not for a moment imagining that they would be deemed as intended for the instruction of any but the veriest tyro, I have appended my "Hints on Riding to Hounds."

THE AUTHOR.

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## **PART I.**

**UPON BREEDING THE HORSE.**





# THE HORSE AND HIS MASTER.

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## INTRODUCTION.

So much has been said and written about this —the noblest of the brute creation, by men conversant with their subject and fully capable of handling it in all its details, that observations from an unknown author, and submitted for public appreciation, will be jealously scrutinised, and expected to possess a little novelty as well as merit.

I do not presume that so fortunate an award will be granted this little work, for it may be considered to lack those elements necessary to draw forth such an eulogium. I can, however, vouch for the purity of purpose which actuates me in the endeavour to draw public attention to what may, at no distant day, be found a festering rotteness in the core of the country.

My object is to lay before all who prize the horse from a love of the animal, or from sordid or prudential motives, my views as to the great danger in which we stand of losing him altogether, as a sound and useful animal, because of the yearly increasing deterioration which is visible to the accurate observer ; and also, what I feel firmly convinced is the most effective mode of generally diffusing that soundness, and the varied desirable qualities which render the horse valuable for general purposes, and which, I hope, I have clearly shown can be much preserved and accelerated by judicious attention ; and how great an improvement can be made, and what an amount of health, comfort, and longevity, can be added to our most faithful, docile, and affectionate servant, the cheerful companion and willing slave of our pleasures, and the staunch ally “ ’midst death and wounds, and war’s alarms ” — rendering him more generally sound and efficient, and enhancing his value by improving his constitution, form, and action.

The breeding of horses has, for a number of years, been carried on in Great Britain and Ireland with ardour, and often, where blood stock

have been propagated, with a lavish expense, but with less discrimination as to ultimate results than could have been desired.

The daily increasing want of soundness and substance is a sad return for time, money, and anxiety on the part of the majority of breeders. I except those whose goal is the T.Y.C. (two-year old course.)

To our racing stables we may look for the origin of the cause of complaints as to want of bone and soundness in the horses of our day, when compared with those of former years, and to the same source let us turn for an explanation; for from them become scattered over the length and breadth of these realms that *bane* to the improvement of the British, or any other horse—the worn-out or cast racer, who, when past all “patching and piecing,” is finally rejected either from impaired functions, or totally shattered constitution, and foisted upon breeders, who, as a body, lean wonderfully towards a long and high-sounding pedigree; led like the unconscious victims of the serpent-charmer, into a trap, without knowing how or why they got there.

One thing may be relied upon beyond the power of controversion, that from an unhealthy source

will flow continuously as long as both exist, an unhealthy stream. It may be temporarily, by some counteracting influences, rendered delusively pure; but remove the foreign ascendancy, and its native pollution resumes its course. So is it with an attempt to counteract malformation or disease in a sire; for a generation you may be successful, but *subsequently the latent defects become, as in the source from which they sprung, a prominent deformity.*

I could, but for obvious reasons, adduce several instances from personal observation, extending in those immediate cases over a period of years, where sires, though well supported with good mares, have got very faulty stock; their own objectionable qualities being, in the majority of cases, transmitted most markedly to their offspring, and have, as an exception, not as a rule, got very bad stock in other respects. The reason is apparent enough. Those stallions have been chosen more with regard to pedigree and performance, than with attention to shape, substance, action, or soundness, without which *desiderata*, the purest bred horse the kingdom can produce is valueless as a stud horse, because *acquired defects* are transmissible.

If we are only ordinary observers of nature, it will require nothing beyond a moderate degree of perspicuity to discover and guard against an increasing evil, which yearly observation will render more apparent, unless it be judiciously checked in its lamentable progress. For example, we see a sire with objectionable loins and hocks, reproducing animals partaking at a ratio of three to one of his own deformities. Let us turn to another. A fine "peacocky"-looking horse, blind of one eye, and "not seeing well with the other," is blazoned forth to the public in a flaming pedigree (in which will, probably, be embodied a strongly expressed opinion of the impropriety of jockeys striking a horse on the head, thereby endangering the animal's *eyes*); he, too, has been entailing upon posterity, not only his objectionable form, but defective optics.

I cling to the hope that, notwithstanding the censurable apathy which seems to exist, as to the *very important* influence exercised by the male in propagation, public opinion may be enlisted in the ranks of those innovators who have so praiseworthy raised their voices and plied their pens against the culpability of the present system indulged in by the general breeder of horses.

“Without entering into the vexed question of the relative influence of the male and female animal in horses, or the principal theories which have been advanced in connection with it, it may just be named that some time ago, in the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, was opened this very difficult question, and it was propounded in this manner: Whether the breed of live stock be susceptible of the greatest improvement, from the qualities conspicuous in male, or female parent? A variety of opinions were elicited, and some from names standing very high, both as the greatest scientific authorities of the day, and the best practical breeders.

“Mr. Boswell, of Balmuto, takes the side that the male is the animal which possesses the greatest transmissive power; and after an elaborate investigation, concludes that, ‘he is *the parent to which we can alone look, from motives of sense and sound polity*, for the improvement of our live stock.’

“A more modified view is taken by Mr. Dallas, of Edinburgh, who gives his opinion, that while the male animal is more powerful for imprinting *external qualities*, the female is more influential for those which are internal. Hence, he teaches,

that the sire ought to be selected for the improvement of coat, colour, and outward form; and the female, for milking, hardiness, and freedom from internal tendency to disease.

“Mr. Christian, of Mull, takes a middle course, and contends that the offspring partakes of the qualities of that parent which exerts the greatest influence in formation of the foetus, and recommends the selection on both sides, of the best animals that can be found. That this is a safe theory there can be no doubt; but the late Rev. J. H. C. Berry argued, that all improvements of a breed are attributable to *high blood*, and not to sex at all: that animals carefully selected, and kept pure and unalloyed, are those only to be trusted in their transmissive energy. But with modesty, so common to all well-informed men, he concludes by admitting ‘that with our present scanty stock of information on this difficult question, *one only rational course can be adopted by breeders*, viz. that of *resorting to the best male*;’ a simple efficacious mode of improving such stocks as require improvement, and the only proceeding by which stock already good can be preserved in excellence.”

The hybrids between the male horse and female ass, and vice versâ, are a very conclusive evidence

of the power of the male, in transmitting external qualities to his progeny.

Let us hear the astute Stonehenge upon the influence of the male in propagation.

“The influence of the male upon the embryo is partly dependent upon the fact that he furnishes portion of its substance, but also in great measure upon the effect exerted upon the nervous system of the mother by him.”

May we not, then, infer, that so far as external organisation is concerned, the male should occupy the most prominent position in our consideration? Such, doubtless, should be the case; but the contrary is the most prevalent belief amongst the uninformed; and the generality of breeders imagine, that sound good-looking mares may be put with impunity to any stallion boasting a long line of ancestral “flyers;” not knowing or caring how many of them were defective in appearance, constitution, and temper, or for a moment reflecting that—acquired qualities are transmitted.

Hear “Stonehenge,” whose valuable book, “British Rural Sports,” should be found in the library of the noble, the gentleman, the sportsman, the farmer, and the breeder. He says:—“As bad qualities are quite as easily transmitted as good



ones, if not more so, it is necessary to take care that, in selecting a male to improve the stock, he is free from bad points, as well as furnished with good ones. It is known from experience, that the good or bad points of the progenitors of the sire, or dam, are almost as likely to appear again in the offspring as those of the immediate parents, in whom they are dominant. Hence, in breeding, the rule is, *like begets like; or the likeness of some ancestor.*"

Does not the reception of such a theory as I have endeavoured to point out, in the minds of all of us, either as the lovers of the horse, or supporters of him from sordid motives, or a desire of legitimate gain, or as men proud of the puissant deeds of Britain's mounted warriors, awaken at least a very unpleasant presentiment, while we remember, that of the hundreds of sires now propagating horses for general purposes, not five per cent. would pass the critical acumen of a good judge?—and that the majority of them, if we except some at Newmarket, York, and other headquarters, offend against every notion and instinct a good judge possesses of what an animal intrusted with a harem should be? This is a most serious evil, whose paramount importance calls for the

attention of Government, except the country is satisfied to lose that prestige which attaches to it, of possessing the best horses, and best-mounted cavalry in Europe. What carried our mail-clad soldiers through the overwhelming numbers and serried ranks of France's great hero? What bore with the irresistible career of a swooping eagle, the "Immortal Six Hundred" through the flower of Russia's chivalry and her barbarian hordes? Oh! it was our glorious British horses, fleet, powerful, and beautiful; true as hearts of oak, and trusty as the puissant and flashing steel of their hero riders. And shall we lose them? Yes, reader, with sorrow I write it; a continuance of the present system of propagation, and they will be known to posterity only by history, or tradition, —vanished as a tale that was told.

Imperfect sires beget imperfect stock; many fillies are retained by farmers, simply because their inferiority debarred their owners from selling them at a remunerative figure. Upon chance, they are put to stud, hoping, that after getting a foal, a less loss will be sustained by sale. No use in pursuing a dispiriting example of the kind further. In Ireland (our greatest breeding country for cavalry horses and hunters), its effects are

already visible to all. And I feel almost certain, that if the government were cognisant of the startling degeneracy that has taken place of late years in the general breed of horses in that country, they would feel themselves bound to investigate causes, and solicit suggestions for the remedy of so great an evil, embracing, as it does, considerations which might be enlarged upon to an appalling extent.

Ignorance and custom have done much to deteriorate our breed of horses, and injudicious crossing has been productive in a short time of very undesirable consequences. The introduction within the last few years, of the heavy agricultural carts and other agrarian implements, by Scotch and English agriculturists, if calculated to improve farming, have had a materially opposite effect on the breed of horses. For the increased burthens, it was considered that a larger stamp of horse than the native Irish one was necessary; and in the plentitude of unbridled ignorance, would-be clever fellows have hit upon the expedient of crossing upon our country mares, huge Clydesdale stallions, and other monstrous horses, thereby producing a nondescript brute, building, in the majority of instances coming under my notice,

a huge structure upon a doubtful basis; or, to be more explicit, placing an elephant-like carcass upon legs insufficient to stand the wear and tear consequent upon such a superincumbent mass. Gentlemen, if you require waggon horses, pray remember to get suitable mares for your purpose, and never hope that you can produce them by crossing with the native Irish mares, which possess an infusion of very good blood,—and that the purer the breed, the more likely it is to be transmitted to the offspring. Hence, whichever parent is of the purest blood will be generally more represented in the offspring. You will only defeat your own object, and entail upon the country a most intolerable grievance, by disregarding these injunctions. Stonehenge says:—"In all cases it is dangerous to attempt to make too sudden an alteration with regard to size, as the effect will generally end in a colt made without a due proportion of parts; and, therefore, more or less awkward and unwieldy."

This indiscriminate breeding must be redressed, or the consequences abided; a mode must be adopted that will ultimately insure a good stamp of useful horses, and eventually banish the "weeds" and "brutes," that threaten to inundate us, and

.

sweep, like a surging wave, the very resemblance of our far-famed horses from the land.

The money given for King's plates, with a view to encourage the propagation of blood-stock, when race-horses were not numerous, was all fair and legitimate; but the sums given for Queen's plates at the present time could be vastly better employed towards the attainment of a similar purpose. There is a sufficient inducement to the votaries of the turf to continue to breed the best they can, irrespective of Her Majesty's plates. Nor have they, in justice, any right to expect a continuance of a gift which their own rapacity has defeated the object of. Those two-year old races have put the extinguisher upon any hopes of good being effected by our gracious sovereign's liberal donations to the turf; the inducements for finding out the merits of the race-horse at too early an age are so cogent and so numerous, as to upset the hope of any promising colt, or filly, being preserved from the deleterious discipline of the training-stable until a matured frame and indurated muscles might defy it.

The tissues of a horse are not developed fully until he is six or seven years old, says a well-known professional authority; and, therefore, in

a two-year old, must be very weak and slender ; in proof of which, remember, that the ends of the bones (epiphysis) *at this age are not joined* by long union to the common shaft, rendering them incapable of resisting the tension imposed upon them, by the tendons and ligaments, during excessive action. Nothing interferes with the wise laws of nature so much as early training. It is said that "nature is ever economical in her means, and wise in her ends;" but early training frustrates her means, and consequently, defeats her ends. As in the vegetable kingdom, the seed placed in the ground will not be hurried, but has to pass through many stages before the full ear of corn is developed ; so in the animal kingdom, the primary cell has to undergo many changes before it is transformed into the particular tissue for which it is destined. Too early training of any kind is productive of incalculable mischief. It will be found, that a statistical report will prove that nine out of every ten animals submitted as two-years old to excessive exertion, never reach the age of five with unimpaired physical powers. The abuse of noble young horses, before vigour has established her empire, taxing to the utmost powers which are only artificial, and accelerated by a system

detrimental to the last degree, to that object for which King's plates were first established, is the root of the present evil.

So long as long courses and *adult horses* were the order of the day, we find less injury resulting, beyond any comparison, than the present system of short gallops and immatured animals has been productive of. The persecution of colts and fillies, for the gratification of a morbid lust of excitement and gaming propensities, ill calculated to elevate human nature in a moral or social scale, has sent abroad upon the face of the land the worthless and decrepit stud horses which have for years been working out the ruin of our general horses. If I err in my views, let my opinions be controverted; but if I am correct, surely they are worthy of attracting the attention of some whose position and power will give *them* a voice to be heard in proper quarters. Let some such, stimulated by a love for the animal, or love of country (for it embraces the latter), cry out against this erroneous system of turfites of the the present day—detrimental as it is to the original object and the public weal, and therefore selfish to the last degree. There will be some who write well, and with an assumption of

knowledge, found to contend that factitious or acquired defects are merely individual, and cannot be propagated, and that the circumstance of diseased limbs and joints, and impaired constitution or blindness, cannot be transmitted to posterity. Such opinions are unworthy of notice; let those flimsy theorists make the acquaintance of *Dame Nature* and observe her workings, a beneficial change will then be observable in their opinions.

Reader! do you feel persuaded that our thorough-bred horse is become a degenerate animal generally speaking; or are you gulled into a contrary opinion by the speciousness of those who would point your attention to the few "flyers" that annually appear? If so, be assured *that mode* of arriving at a just conclusion is erroneous. Granted that there are some good horses yearly produced, which escape the perils to which man's *lust* of gain submits them; but being of a superior description, they are thereby taken from the breeders of *general horses*, who must be content with the mediocre class of animal—the rejected thorough-bred, not worthy of support by those who breed the purest of his own order.

What becomes of the majority of the mass of thorough-bred horses yearly produced in England



and this country? Useless, weedy, spindle-shanked deformities—some of them too, gallopers, for they run in all sorts, shapes, and sizes, which is much to be lamented, but useless for any other purpose that I am aware of, except as most objectionable and dangerous riding-school pads: would to heaven they always found such place and occupation! their mischievous qualities would then be immeasurably more limited in action; but no! a sufficient number of them become—what? In the nineteenth century, and in boasted Britain, what do they become? With all objectionable qualities, and in sight of a discerning people jealous of national honour, what do they become? Sires!!! for the improvement of our cavalry, hunting and general horses, animals so defective in every essential point of excellence, that a judge would hesitate to entrust them with the getting of useful mules. Verily, *the means justify results.*

Granting to the sire a preponderating influence in the external formation of his stock, which, from the heap of reliable evidence that is recorded by many worthy of respect in favour of such a doctrine, we are bound to do, and setting down the period of virility at ten years (which is too little),

and the number of mares at fifty fruitful ones annually, which is not over the mark, the stallion will have produced 500 foals to the mares' ten.

This is a startling fact, when it is remembered that not more than five per cent. of our sires are sound and unblemished, and that *factitious defects are transmissible*. But the generality of breeders in this country, more particularly "small farmers," seem to have no taste for anything beyond a great pedigree; a horse possessing it, sixteen hands or upwards, no matter whether nature in apportioning height had bestowed an undue allowance on the legs, or that the animal was defective in soundness and other desirable qualities, which should distinguish an improving sire, with a good head and neck, glossy coat, flowing mane and tail, and a clothing of *enervating* fat, he will find supporters enough amongst that class who are most susceptible of instruction in anything appertaining to horse-breeding, and who pursue only a custom from ignorance of what is best. In former days, the habit of putting mares to the *best bred* sires was commendable, as in those times, anterior to the era of *foal-racing*, it was easy to procure *healthy, sound stallions*. Not so now, and the votaries of custom become the victims of

of the errors of those who should be their preceptors and improvers.

We sadly lack the sort of stallions necessary to transmit desirable qualities to posterity, and what more important to the country than the introduction of such as are capable of bestowing upon their offspring, soundness, energy, endurance, action, power, and good looks. In the absence of such, let the breeders eschew the sixteen hands and upwards, and go any reasonable distance to obtain the service of a horse that has been always sound and unblemished, and remains so. Thick through him, with plenty of bone and large joints, standing on short legs and roomy feet, not too low at the heels, and covering length of ground.

How are we to remedy a great existing evil? By what means are we to infuse into our degenerate breed of horses a new vitality and more universal soundness? By employing for the purpose *sound* stallions, not alone individually so, but proceeding from a long line of sound and pure blooded progenitors. To the son of Araby's arid land must we again turn for the essential excellencies *once* derived from him, and wantonly sacrificed to a debasing thirst for gold and questionable pursuits in its attainment. Away to the

winds with the puerile theorists who would cast a shadow of doubt upon the result of crossing high-caste Arab stallions with our native mares! Of their soundness there can be no question; their temper, docility, constitution, hardihood, enduring powers, freedom of action, and indomitable “pluck,” has become a proverb; and their clean sinewy legs, iron feet, and beautiful form—the type of elegance and concentrated power—is known to all. The universally found healthy condition of their vitals, constitute an arrangement that makes “broken wind” in these aristocrats of the desert unknown, and blindness is an absolute novelty in the race; what then is objectionable? His size, says some one not aware of the expansive *power* of the *desert blood* when crossed with ours. Two instances have come under my own immediate observation, and I’ll quote them.—“Count Chabot, of Thomastown, co. Tipperary, imported an Arab stallion, of what caste I cannot say. He, however, *looked the gentleman!* When offered the public as a sire, the general impression being that he would only get ponies from even large mares, he had at first bad ‘seasons,’ but in time it became apparent that from all sorts of ‘three cornered’ animals he was producing most substantial and saleable stock, amongst which were

many very clever weight-carrying hunters that commanded large prices, and the gallant little 'Sais' became all the rage. It was quite apparent that *all* his stock were deeply imbued with Arab characteristics — beautiful heads, prominent, mild, and fiery eyes, grand legs and feet, deep shoulders and heart, good action, a well set on tail, and beautiful loins and backs. Many of the mares were wretched: it mattered not, he was sure to get a *sound* animal and useful for some purpose or other. He was about fourteen hands two inches, and I never heard of one of his stock that did not exceed fifteen and some sixteen hands. In like manner, Mr. Potts, of Kilgarriff, Ballinasloe, had an Arab sire, noted as the progenitor of the most beautiful stock (combining size, elegance and power) that could be found, noted as perfect hunters and wonderful jumpers."

It is almost hopeless to expect that while the powerful patrons of the turf are actuated more by its gaming attractions than by a desire for permanent improvement of the race-horse, and so long as it is influenced by gamesters, who only desire speed to suit their convenience, that the Arab horse will be the chosen consort of our high-bred mares, prejudice being against the cross, for

the purposes of pace for a short distance; whether justly or not, I am unaware. Surely this is no sufficient reason why many, to whom the subject should be momentous, possessed of wealth and power, should not exert themselves to rectify and remedy a national grievance, and by rescuing the British horse from general deterioration and final extinction, transmit a great boon to posterity in a legacy won by praiseworthy exertion, from the festering grasp of prejudice and established error.

From the mountains of Wales, and through the length and breadth of Ireland, are derived those hardy and wiry horses, so proverbial for standing the hardships of a campaign. From the Arab cross, with mares of such a race, what happy results may be looked for in the certain enhancement of qualities so very desirable in our chargers. In Ireland the *furor* for breeding is so great, that those whose limited farms only admit of one horse, are generally found with a *mare* (which is worked often *up to the day of foaling*). Through this numerous class we can scarcely form an estimate of the colossal benefit which the contiguity of Arab stallions would effect, if their usefulness was properly published to them, and as a mere matter of speculation, it would be found

desirable to establish Arab stud yards, irrespective altogether of the benefit to be conferred on posterity ; provided always that *efficiency* (not interest brought to bear) was studied in the selection of those appointed to select sires, and in the choosing of properly qualified grooms, and an inspector or two.

Some men will breed from any mare they possess, no matter how objectionable she may be, which is another strong recommendation in favour of high-caste Arab stallions, because "*The purer or less mixed the breed, the more likely it is to be transmitted unaltered to the offspring ; hence, whichever parent is of the purest blood, will be generally more represented in the offspring ; but as the male is usually more carefully selected, and of purer blood than the female, it generally follows that he exerts more influence than she does ; the reverse being the case when she is of more unmixed blood than the sire.*"—STONEHENGE'S *Rural Sports*, p. 422.

The instances coming under my observation, of the half-caste Arab produce from our mares, are in favour of the foregoing doctrine, save as regards size, they being all larger by far than the sire.

There are many who possess both the inclination and means to be fastidious in their choice of brood mares, and ambitious of producing first-class animals; to such I would make a few observations as to the sort of mare likely to be instrumental in bringing about a realisation of their hopes and wishes. Constitution is a paramount consideration, and shapes and action not a secondary one. Four things must be considered, *blood, frame, state of health, and temper*. In frame she should be deep, lengthy, and roomy; straight hips are not to be commended, although having about them a fashionable look, the tail in animals possessing such being always well set on. Stonehenge says in his "Rural Sports," p. 430: "When the level or straight hips are found existing in conjunction with a tail set on very high, the end of the haunch bone is nearly on a level with the projection of the hip bone." This formation does not admit of so much room as that to be found in mares possessing wide hips, and a tail set on rather below, than on a level with the croup. In such an animal the pelvis is larger and more roomy; the haunch bone forming a greater angle with the sacrum, admits of more room for the embryo, and also for its



exit when the time of parturition arrives. I quote the following passage, as I have others, from the erudite Stonehenge:—"The pelvis should be wide and deep, that is to say, it should be large and roomy, and there should also be a little more than the average length from the hip to the shoulder, so as to give plenty of bed for the foal, as well as a good depth of back ribs, which are necessary in order to support this increased length. This gives the whole frame-work of the trunk of larger proportion than is always desirable in the race-horse, which may easily be overtopped; and hence many good runners have failed in brood mares, whilst a great number of bad runners have been dams of good race-horses. Beyond this roomy frame, necessary as the eggshell of the foal, the mare only requires such a shape and make as is well adapted for the particular purpose she is intended for, or if not possessing it herself, she should belong to a family having it. If a mare can be obtained possessing all those requisites in her own person, so much the more likely will she be to produce race-horses; but if not all, then it is desirable she should add as many as possible to the needful frame-work, without which her office can hardly

be well carried out, viz. the producing of first-class race-horses. In health, the brood mare should be as near perfection as the artificial state of the animal will allow; at all events, 'tis the most important point of all, and in every case the mare should be very carefully examined, with a view to discover what deviations from a natural state have been entailed upon her by her own labours, and what she has *inherited* from ancestors. Independently of the consequences of accidents, all deviations from a state of health in the mare *may be considered as more or less transmitted to her*, because in a thoroughly sound constitution no ordinary treatment, such as training consists of, will produce disease, and it is only *hereditary predisposition*, which, under this process, entails its appearance. Still there are positive, comparative, and superlative degrees of objectionable diseases incidental to the brood mare, which should be accepted or refused accordingly. All accidental defects, such as broken knees, dislocated hips, or even 'breaks-down,' may be passed over; the latter, however, only when the stock from which the mare is descended are famous for standing their work without this frailty of sinew and ligament; spavins, ringbones,

large splents, sidebones, and in fact all bony enlargements are *constitutional defects*, and will be almost sure to be perpetuated more or less according to the degree in which they exist in the particular case. (Another cogent reason why we should employ Arab stallions for the infusion of *soundness*, as we have seen at p. 25, that the purer or less mixed the breed, the more likely it is to be transmitted unaltered to the offspring; hence 'whichever parent is of the purest blood, will be generally more represented in the offspring.' As regards purity of blood, the Arab defies competition or cavil). Curby hocks are also hereditary, and should be avoided, though many a one much bent at the junction of the *os calcis* with the *astragalus* is not at all liable to curbs. It is the defective condition of the ligaments there, not the angular junction, which leads to curbs, and the breeder should carefully investigate the individual case, before accepting or rejecting a mare with suspicious hocks. Bad feet, whether from contraction, or from too flat or thin a sole, should also be avoided, but when they have obviously arisen from bad shoeing the defect may be passed over. Such are the chief varieties of unsoundness in the legs, which require

circumspection ; the good points which on the other hand are to be looked for, are those considered desirable in all horses that are subject to shocks, *i. e.* 'concussion of the gallop.' Calf knees are generally bad in the race-horse, and are very apt to be transmitted, whilst the opposite form is also perpetuated, but is not nearly so disadvantageous. Such are the general considerations bearing on the soundness of limb. That of the 'wind' is no less important. 'Broken-winded' mares seldom breed, and they are therefore out of the question, if for no other reason ; but no one would risk the recurrence of this disease, even if he could get such a mare stinted. 'Roaring' is a much vexed question, which is by no means theoretically settled among our chief veterinary authorities, nor practically by our breeders ; *every year however it becomes more and more frequent and important*, a marked evidence of degeneracy in our horses, and the risk of reproduction is too great to run by breeding from a 'roarer.'"

Lastly, the temper is of the utmost importance, by which must be understood not that gentleness at grass, which may lead the breeder's family to pet the mare, but such a temper as will serve

for the purposes of her rider, and will answer to the stimulus of the voice, whip, or spur. A craven or rogue is not to be thought of as the "mother of a family."

Blood is so much a matter of taste, that I say nothing of its choice, nor will I quote the able opinions of others in reference to it in brood mares; but if the breeders of general horses agree with the indisputable theory that teaches purity of blood in a parent has a preponderating influence in transmitting the qualities of that parent to progeny, and that the male exercises a greater influence than the female in a similar capacity, then I say nothing short of an ignorant bigotry can condemn the introduction of Arab sires.

I extract the following letter from the "Field," January 8th, 1859.

HORSE BREEDING.—THE ARAB.

"Sir, — Those of your correspondents who despise Arabs cannot know much about the animal they condemn. One says the Arab is 'devoid of excellence for the turf, being neither swift nor enduring.' Another complains of 'having to shoot

two Arabs for broken wind, the brutes in question having been bred, the one in France and the other in Germany !' Another writer pictures the misery of a luckless wight doomed to ride an 'Arab ten miles to cover, hunt him all day, and conclude with a trot home twenty-five miles,'— a 'weary pilgrimage, in which the pretty Arab would break his own knees and his master's heart ;' whilst 'the English hunter in a like predicament would trot and walk along with his head in the air and gay to the stable door.' In such a plight, rather than encounter such a heart-rending amount of knee-smashing, I would suggest a deviation from her Majesty's highway, and finish off with the larking process of arrival at the stable door and see next morning which horse showed the cleanest manger and the coolest legs, the English hunter or the Arab jade !

"It would take up too much time to answer the anti-Arabites in detail, but perhaps you will accept my humble effort to disabuse the minds of the uninitiated, as to what is meant by the term Arab, where the genuine article is to be found, and how to be procured.

"Ali Bey, describes six distinct breeds of Arabians. The first, named the 'Dgelfe,' is

found in Arabia Felix. They are rare at Damascus, but pretty common in the neighbourhood of Anaze. They are remarkable for speed and fire, yet mild as lambs; they support hunger and thirst for a long time; are of lofty stature, narrow in the chest, but deep in the girth, and long ears. A colt of this breed, at two years old, will cost in its own country 2000 Turkish piastres.

“The second breed, called ‘Seclaoni,’ comes from the eastern part of the desert, resembles the ‘Anaze’ in appearance, but is not quite so highly valued.

“Next comes the ‘Mefki,’ handsome, though not so swift as the two former breeds, and more resembling the Andalusian in figure. They are very common about Damascus.

“Then the ‘Sabi’ resembles the Mefki; and the fifth breed, called Fridi, is very common, but it is necessary to try them well, for they are often vicious, and do not possess the excellent qualities of the other breeds.

“Sixth comes the ‘Nejdi,’ from the neighbourhood of Bussorah, and if they do not surpass, they at least equal the ‘Dgelfe, or Anaze, and Seclaoni.’ Horses of this breed are little known at Damascus, and connoisseurs assert that they are incompar-

able; thus their value is arbitrary, and always exceeds 2000 piastres.

“It is from the Anaze and the Nejdi, that the turf in India is chiefly supplied; and I doubt if ‘—————’ has ever seen a specimen of either of those breeds, although in his Turkish experience he may have met with some of the inferior sorts, which, of course, are not of a stamp to find favour in a breeder’s eye.

“If it be true that some English stallions have gone into Arabia, I cannot conceive a greater misfortune to befall the Desert. Judging from the fruits of English crossing in the government studs in India, I should expect nothing but mischief to follow any similar attempts in Arabia.

“I have elsewhere asserted my belief that ‘Arabs’ are, in proportion, naturally the largest-limbed blood horses in creation; and looking at the ‘tobacco-pipe’ sort of legs now cultivated in England, I wonder what the Desert blood would gain by English contamination!

“I have seen Arabs of such stature as to raise suspicions of their purity. I once possessed a colt myself that stood fifteen hands and an inch at three years old. He had the *stereotyped* assortment of eastern beauties; could stick his nose in



a tumbler, and looked the gentleman all over; remarkably muscular, and as stately in his bearing as an autocrat; but his clean, flat, wiry legs, measuring eight inches round the shank below the knee, had nothing English in their composition. This was a pure Anaze Arab. His career of usefulness as a hunter or racer was cut short by his casting himself in his stall and dislocating his hip; but the Government gave me 150*l.* for him on his three legs for stud purposes.

“As for royal presents not being considered worth their litter ‘in the stud,’ I would observe that it is not only difficult to procure pure Arabs, even in India, but it is difficult to judge of the real thing. There are many horses from the borders of Persia and Syria of very handsome charger-like appearance, much admired, and commanding high prices. I have seen horses of this description in the dealers’ lots at Bombay sell for (in English money) 200*l.*, 300*l.*, and even 500*l.*; wealthy natives, and especially Parsees, being the customers. And these are just the kind of animals the Imaum of Muscat would select for a royal offering.

“The most unmistakable test of Desert blood is the turf of British India. The prices given for

colts of racing promise are sufficiently attractive, and the severity of Indian training is what nothing but the best of metal can stand; and it is from this source alone that the English breeder should derive that fresh infusion of blood and substance so much needed at home—injuries in training or running being no detriment to a stallion of sound constitution.\*

“But what after all are Indian races? exclaims ‘—————;’ Indian races are not like English races; a mere spurt for spindleshanked velocipedes; but Indian races are, what English races ought to be, a trial of speed combined with lasting stoutness. And Indian racecourses being for the most part, as hard and hot as an English turnpike road in the dog-days, the feet and legs that can stand hammering thereon must be of sufficiently tough materials to answer the English breeder’s purpose.

“An Arab race-horse seldom exceeds fourteen hands and two inches in height; Indian distances range from one mile and a half to two and even three miles; and till within late years, the longest distances were run in heats—a barbarity now I believe abandoned. The weights range from

\* The writer is in error: acquired defects *are transmissive*.—  
AUTHOR.

seven stone and a half to nine stone and ten stone; and no uncommon thing for Arabs, is two minutes and fifty-four seconds the mile and a half; three minutes and fifty-two seconds the two miles—it has been done in three minutes and forty-eight seconds, and the Arab that did it was once my property, and his name was ‘The Child of the Island.’ He was a daisy-cutter, and yet I have ridden him over the roughest ground and never detected him in a trip; a pleasanter, safer hack could not be, and a fleeter Arab the world never saw. He stood fourteen hands, two inches, bay, with black points, wiry limbs, muscular all over, and measured seven inches and three quarters round a fore leg of the finest bone and flattest sinew; and if ‘—————’ will make allowance for the difference of stride between this Arab and that of the Flying Dutchman, or Voltigeur, he will find an answer to the taunt, about ‘admirers of the Arab wisely refusing to lay much stress upon his actual powers as a racer.’ And if such an Arab could be put to such a mare as, say ‘Blue Bonnet,’ he would probably establish his own claims to merit as a getter of stock.

“But although Flying Childers, and other notables of the last century, were the sons of eastern sires, it would be absurd to expect racing men of

the present day to stake their thousands upon an Arab's get, when stride and not endurance is the thing that wins the money.

"English racing is too much for the pot to be any longer the fountain from which the nation can keep up its breed of horses for general purposes; and seeing that Queen's plates do not induce competition, but are nipped up here and there by any second-rate plater, it would be no great deprivation to the racing world, whilst it would be a national benefit to the country, if her most gracious Majesty were to withdraw the customary prizes from the turf, and apply the money to the importation from India of some Arabs of such a stamp as would supplant the weeds and screws we now depend on for keeping up the supply of hunters, hacks, and troopers; and with this view some such plan as that which I suggested to the Government of India with reference to the supply of Cape horses for the Indian army might be adopted. (*Vide* "Blue Book," page 63.) I would not propose any complicated entanglements of retained rights and interests in Arabs sent by Government. Let them be sold out-and-out to the highest bidders, setting down the result to profit or loss, as may be.

"And although sceptics may doubt the ex-

pandering tendency of the Arabs, let breeders bear in mind that success depends as much on the mare as on the horse. Let a real Arab of proper substance be put to a good roomy mare, *and the result will generally be a horse bigger than its dam.* The gentleman whose twenty years' experience proved a 'tired Arab to be the greatest brute in existence', must have been unfortunate in his cattle, or very exacting in his calls upon their energies.

"For my own part, among the hundreds (I may say thousands) of Arabs I have known, I can hardly call to mind the phenomenon of a 'tired Arab'; but your correspondent, 'A Lover of Blood', in what he tells you about Jumping Jemmy, shows that a man can ride an Arab four hundred miles in five consecutive days, without breaking either his heart or his knees, and what more would people want?

"I did not witness the feat, but I saw Jumping Jemmy soon after the performance, when he looked quite fit to do it again; and I am happy to be able to corroborate your correspondent's instance of Arab endurance.

"J. BOWER, Lieut.-Col.

"Westbury House, Petersfield, Hants."

There is a very common dishonesty prevalent amongst the keepers of "sires," which deserves mention in the strongest terms of reprobation, viz., the keeping of such horses in a state more calculated to attract ignorant admiration than to sustain vigour and sure foal-getting energies. I am free to admit that there are cases in which the evil is the offspring of ignorance and imitation rather than censurable design, but by far the greater number indulge in the error from motives of deception, rather than from any want of knowledge of the consequences.

I allude to the state of disgusting and enervating fat with which those animals are generally loaded, looking more like a prize bullock's condition than what should be seen on a healthy horse, more particularly on any kept for reproductive purposes. For such, vigour and robust health would seem to be advisable, if not necessary; and yet, with *fat* in excessive quantities, such a state is inconsistent. "The blood is the life thereof." Superfluous fat is an absorber and debilitater of the *blood*, is inimical to a healthy action of the vital organs, tending to disarrangement of the secretions, and rendering the liver torpid and defective in discharge of its all-im-

portant functions. Minor organs dependent on its action for healthy existence become deranged to the upsetting of the system, and from unhealthiness of the blood consequent thereon, the blood being the "vital stream." The procreative organs derive from "*that stream*" their life-giving qualities, and if the source be unhealthy, what must be the result?

Nevertheless there are many not aware that this injurious habit is so potent of evil, or that it is too frequently promoted more as a cloak to deformity and objectionableness of shapes, rather than as a useful or necessary addenda.

The faulty legs and constitutions of many of the sires now-a-days prohibit the possibility of their doing sufficient work to keep them in *condition*, which fact is, I submit, another strong reason for the adaptation of *sound Arabs* in room of faulty "screws," for we must remember that want of work will engender fat, and fat I have endeavoured to show in the stud horse is deleterious to a degree.

To insure successful and sure foal-getting, a stallion must be kept in work by which his 'wind' will be kept clear, his muscles developed, no perfection diminished, but no deformity veiled.

There are almost innumerable instances of the superior prolific qualities, and superiority of the stock of a horse in condition to one that is *fat*.

A mare should not be bred from until she is three years old, "coming four." An interval of nine clear days is advisable from the first service to the second in all cases. She should be limited as to the quantity of oats or heating food, as being calculated to engender irritation and inflammation, which is foreign to productiveness. Moderate use of corn is to be recommended, particularly to high-bred mares *after impregnation* has been successfully accomplished, as also moderate exercise.

I am apprehensive that my laying down any rules for the assistance of the animal during the period of parturition may be productive of evil rather than good, and that in recommending a dependence upon the efforts of nature, I pursue the safest course. In instances where the pains of labour are protracted have recourse to veterinary aid. Those gentlemen's fees are very moderate considering the intellectual nature of their profession; and the study, time, and money expended prior to obtaining qualifications. After delivery, the mare should be allowed to clean her offspring, after which, let her have warm gruel,

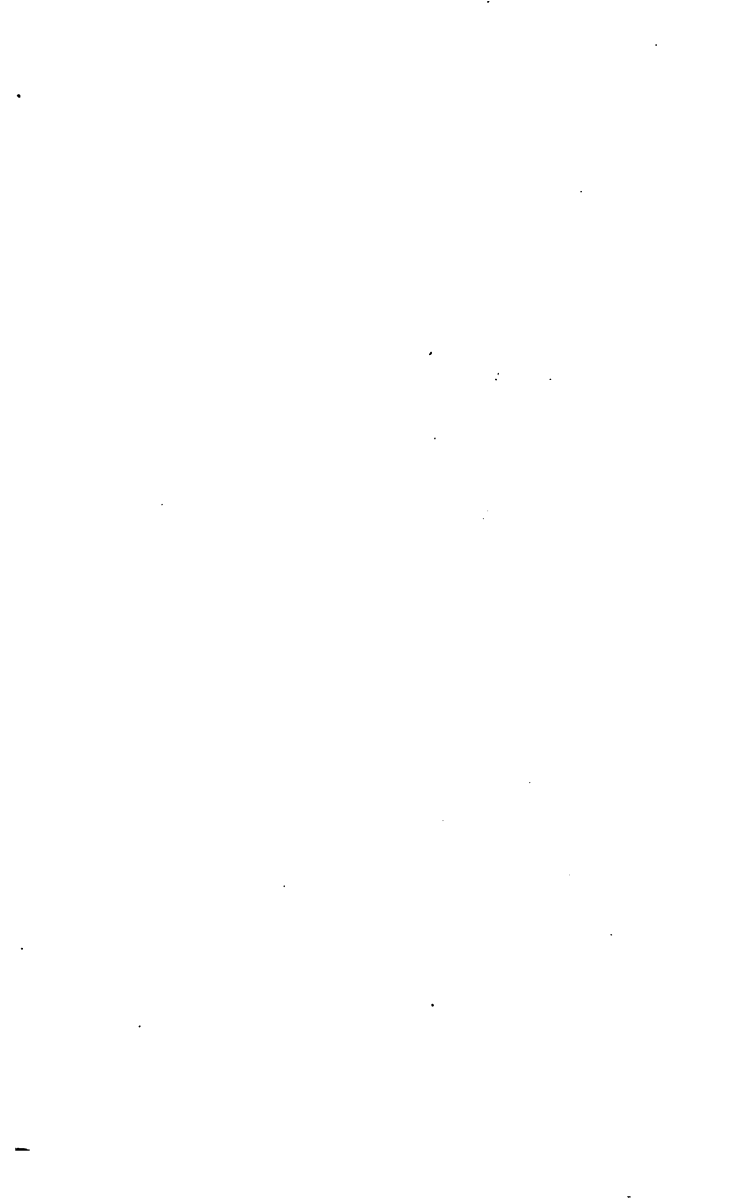


and if much exhausted a stimulant. A pint of strong ale, or Guinness's XX porter, is safest in unskilful hands. For the first twenty-four hours' gruel and a moderate quantity of hay will suffice for sustenance, but after she shows signs of milky secretions being established, she may be allowed more nutritious food.

Foals should be early accustomed to little head-stalls and judicious handling, taking care to avoid all fun or play with the little things, whose frisky gambols and endearing ways it is hard to resist participating in. Teach the foal to lead gently, to lift his feet when required, and to submit to dressing and hand-rubbing, which will render him a willing and docile pupil when "breaking" and in the "stable,"—under which heads he will be further treated of.



**PART II.**  
**BREAKING.**



## CHAPTER I.

## THE POWERS OF THE HORSE.—THEIR TRUE SEAT.

IN order that we may best apply the animal powers of the horse, with least waste or diminution, to the will of man in draught or burthen, it is expedient that we should study his structure, and from careful examination, fix the *true seat* of his powers. For it becomes a leading principle in the matter, that without knowing where what we want lies, we cannot use it to advantage; and that it is extremely important that we should know the seat of *that* from which we expect to accomplish our object; and which (to use an apt simile of that accomplished gentleman breaker and riding-master, Mr. Clarendon, of Brunswick-street, Dublin), I may add, if we look for anywhere else but where it is, we shall find ourselves involved in as great a waste of power as would befall the millwright, who should immerse his wheel in "back water" on the one hand, or elevate it out of the action of the falling stream on the other. But, with respect to the whereabouts of that muscular energy, which is

the only moving power applicable to our machinery, we find the most varied and conflicting opinions, in which the only point of agreement seems to be, that the fore and hind legs share, if not divide, the progressive power of the animal. These differences must be reconciled, and breakers must coincide in their views as to the seat of that energy it is their business to apply, before any uniformity of management will exist, or a full development of power be attained. It is obvious that no one can expect to derive the most advantage from the horse's powers until the knowledge of the source of ability for draught or progression is located. The locomotive driver can tell whence are derived those powers his skill and education have taught him to wield at will; the agents in putting into action for man's service that electric power hitherto the prerogative of Omnipotence, can explain how it is generated and brought into active co-operation with their desires; no trade, occupation, or calling, that its votaries will not understand its principle and action, if we except "Horse Breaking," and this business, unfortunately as a general rule, will be found in the hands of those, who tax to the utmost a power concerning which they neither know whence it comes, nor

how it operates ; added to which, they for the most part indulge in a repulsive species of pretension, which has had the effect of bringing their occupation into general disrepute.

The fundamental principle of Mr. Clarendon's system, which, altogether coinciding with my own views, I intend with his kind permission to lay before my readers, is that the propelling power of the horse resides in his hind quarters, and *there* chiefly in the haunches.

Perhaps there cannot be found, he says, a more ready means of illustrating this proposition than by recurring to the example of the human biped ; the sources of man's propelling powers being situated in the lower limbs, whether he move in his natural and erect position, or whether we suppose him thrown upon all-fours. In the latter case, the arms being merely employed to sustain the weight of the incumbent figure which the legs and thighs press forward ; and the heavy structure of man and the horse being so analogous, that if that be true in the case of the assumed incumbent position of the one, it may reasonably be inferred that it is so in the natural position of the other. Arguments from analogy, though instructive for illustration, are not sufficient for establishment of

principles, and therefore attention to an argument of a stricter kind, by which he supposes that the principle of the fore legs being intended by nature as props or supports may be diligently demonstrated, is demanded.

All progressive motion in organised beings is produced by alternate contraction and extension of their propelling members, whether the instrument of motion be the wing of the bird, the tail or fin of the fish, the annular process of the reptile, or the leg of the biped or quadruped; its efficiency equally depends upon its being brought into contact with the resisting medium when in a state of contraction, so that the corresponding extension, when it takes place, necessarily forces the body forward in the direction of the least resistance. Thus the bird and the fish cleave a passage through their media of air and water respectively, and thus all creatures which move on the surface of the earth bring their propellers to the point of resistance in a contracted state, moving their weight forward with a velocity proportioned to the power exerted in the subsequent extension of the contracted members. In case of the healthy horse, the fore leg comes to the ground in an extended state, all its bones,



with the exception of those at the pastern joint, abutting on one another in very nearly a straight line, from the point of the shoulder to the extremity of the leg, so that being manifestly incapable of further extension, it must be concluded, on the principles just laid down, that it is incapable of exerting any propelling energy, and consequently the only purpose it can serve is that of sustaining the weight of the incumbent fore quarter during the successive advances of the hind legs. Add to this important consideration, that the heavy structure of the fore legs is joined to the rest of the frame by merely muscular attachments calculated not to communicate impulse, but to break concussion, and I trust it will appear that we have sufficient grounds for justifying the conclusion that the propelling power of the horse does not reside in his fore legs.

But when we turn to the hind legs, which, instead of being united by a flexible and elastic muscular attachment to the rest of the frame, are inserted into the extremity of the spinal column by connecting bones of large dimensions, and eminently calculated from their direction to communicate impulse to the whole figure, we find all the conditions requisite for the exertion

of progressive energy present in a very high degree. The limb is brought to the ground with all its parts in a high state of contraction, the shank bone forming an angle with the upper leg bone or tibia at the hock; the tibia forming an angle with the thigh bone or femur at the stifle joint, and the femur forming again another angle with the haunch bone or ischium, which last abuts directly on the lumbar vertebræ, and is the immediate agent in conveying the impulsive force of the hind legs to that centre of the system. Here then we have a series of no less than three angles, not to speak of the elastic apparatus of the pastern, in the successive opening out of which, by contraction of the limb at every stride, all the muscular energy of the hind quarters is called into play, and thus the foot forming the point of resistance, the body of the animal at every stretch of the hind legs is shot forward with a velocity proportioned to the amount of muscular action exerted in that process of extension. Thus is it made perfectly clear, that the whole propelling power of the horse is situated in, and exercised by, the hind quarters.

## CHAP. II.

## LIMITS OF THE HORSE'S POWERS. — CENTRE OF GRAVITY.

HAVING fixed the seat of that power which it is the business of the trainer to apply to the most advantage, let us next endeavour to ascertain the limits to its operation. The utmost measure of extension of which the limb is capable, will evidently constitute the limit of this power on the one hand, and the utmost measure of contraction on the other.

The first limit may be easily fixed, depending, as it does, on the natural conformation of the limb. In most instances, the greatest angle which the femur can form with the haunch bone is limited to about  $130^{\circ}$ ; again, the femur and tibia joined at the stifle joint can rarely form an angle greater than  $140^{\circ}$ ; and the *tibia* and shank bone joined at the hock open out to their fullest extent at from  $150^{\circ}$  to  $165^{\circ}$ , in proportion to the prominence of the *os calcis*. In these maximum

amounts of opening, therefore, we have the limit of the animal's progressive energy on the side of extension; in the other direction they are not quite so easily ascertained.

It is obvious that if the joints of the limb were sufficiently flexible to admit of its being brought to the ground in that very high state of contraction in which the parts are almost in contact, we should have the muscular energy of which the parts are capable brought into play in their extension, and consequently would attain the highest velocity that such an apparatus is capable of communicating: but not only are the limbs of the horse incapable of this extreme degree of flexibility, but their measure of contraction is further limited by the disposition of the weight which they have to sustain as well as to propel, and the position of this weight in the unburthened animal is the creature's own centre of gravity, being the point at which its entire weight is collected.

This point in the horse, according to the various proportions of the animal, is found more or less in advance of the flank, and commonly about the middle of the false ribs. Now it is plain, that in proportion as the hind leg is brought up in a

higher state of contraction, the foot, which forms the point of resistance to the whole propelling apparatus, will be thrown to a corresponding extent farther forward, and so, in an extreme case such as we have supposed, will come to the ground considerably in advance of the centre of gravity; but when this weight is thus disposed behind the point of resistance, the exertion of power is calculated rather to lift than to propel it, and consequently, if there were no other element to be taken into account in our calculations, we should conclude on this branch of the subject that the centre of gravity in the animal as he stands gave the limit of which we are in search; and when the animal is only beginning to progress, such is, in fact, the proper limit assigned to the advance of the hind foot: but so soon as motion commences, a new force comes into operation in the momentum—compounded of the weight and velocity of the moving body, which of itself tends to carry the centre of gravity forward with an independent velocity, proportioned to the original speed by which it is generated.

In high speed, therefore, the point of support may be taken by the hind foot considerably in advance of where the stationary centre of gravity

would be, since the weight is continually borne forward by a force, independent of that about to be exercised by the extending limb, and which suffices to carry it over and past the point of resistance, before each successive accession of muscular energy from the propelling members comes to bear upon it.

This force being in proportion to the velocity, it follows that the greater the speed the more contracted will be the condition of the hind leg in coming up to the proper point of resistance, and consequently the greater the extent of ground covered at each stride; and as the velocity and stride are thus increased, the body, from the greater obliquity of its supporters, will approach nearer the earth; hence we see the racer in full speed skim along with his belly almost in contact with the turf, bringing up his hind legs at each stride, so as to catch the flying centre of gravity, by an effort which may be said to mark the utmost limit of their contractile exertion.

In the centre of gravity, therefore, whether stationary, as in the horse beginning to put himself in motion, or progressive, as when he is propelled both by momentum and by successive accessions of muscular energy from behind, we

have the proper limit of contraction, of which we have been in search. So far, therefore, we conclude, 1st, that the propelling powers reside in the hind legs and haunches; 2nd, that these powers are in proportion to the amount of contraction and extension of which the parts are capable; and 3rd, that the limits within which they are exercised are the extremity of the outstretched limb, on the one hand, and the point immediately below the centre of gravity, stationary or progressive, on the other.

If by extravagant action those limits be overpassed in front, the consequence, as I have remarked, will be a certain degree of embarrassment, the point of resistance being in advance of the weight; if they be overpassed behind, injury to the hock or haunch will be the result of that excessive extension; but while straining and embarrassment thus attend on every excess of action beyond either limit, they will also attend, in a greater or less degree, on every falling short of the same bounds, though they will be chiefly perceptible in the case of *deficient contraction*.

Deficient contraction exists whenever the hind foot fails to overtake the advancing centre of gravity; the weight is then in advance of the

point of resistance, and the horse in urging it forward labours under the same disadvantage as would be experienced by the man who should attempt to throw the heavy shoulder stone from a point in advance of his foot. Both cases fall under the condition of the third order of lever, where the power is applied between the *fulcrum* and the weight, and in which it is a well-known law of mechanics, that as the weight is advanced the power is diminished. So with the horse, whose hind foot is his fulcrum, and whose power is concentrated in his haunches ; in proportion as his centre of gravity overshoots the point to which he brings up his hind foot at each stride, is the loss of power and corresponding strain upon the embarrassed members.

A familiar example of the same principle is afforded by an ill-trimmed boat, when too much of her cargo is stowed in front, and she becomes, as it is termed, "down by the head." Her sailing powers are then greatly diminished, and that pressure of the canvass, which, in a properly balanced state of the vessel, would be wholly exerted in carrying her forward, now exercises a considerable portion of her force in burying her



bows under water: what the mainsail is to the cutter, the haunches are to the horse; and it may be justly said, Put either "out of trim," and the more sail you carry the less progress you are likely to make.

## CHAP. III.

## THE CENTRE OF GRAVITY DISPLACED.—DISORGANISATION THE CONSEQUENCE.

ALTHOUGH the principles arrived at by this train of reasoning are illustrated and realised in the figure and action of the wild horse of the Pampas or of the Desert, as we observe him pictured and described in works of travellers; and although in the figure and action of other quadrupeds which have not been subjected to draught or burthen, such as the deer, the hare, the greyhound, we observe they all use the fore legs for the purposes of support only, and all in bringing up their propellers overtake and support the centre of gravity, attaining so to that beautiful balance of the figure which gives such an air of grace and ease to their movements; yet we rarely, if ever, find the domesticated horse exhibiting a single one of those characteristics of action which such a distribution of his powers ought to produce. On the contrary, we find him in almost every case thrown more or less on his fore legs, not only for support, but for

means of progression, to make up for the deficient exercise of his true propellers; and as the application of any instrument in the economy of nature to purposes for which nature has not designed it is necessarily attended with disease, we rarely, if ever, find him free from blemish; while in a majority of cases effects amounting almost to unsoundness are repulsively visible, crippling his movements, shortening the period of his usefulness, and detracting from the pleasure and advantage of his owner.

It may at first sight appear strange, that these imperfections in carriage, with their attendant train of malformations and blemishes, should exist in the young animal as he is usually put into the hands of the trainer; but nothing is more certain than that peculiarities of gait and carriage are transmitted from one generation to another.

The observant inquirer will be at no loss to account for the original introduction of those peculiarities, they being all owing to the mistaken manner in which the animal in his natural state has been subjected to the artificial duties of draught and burthen. The wild horse, unaccustomed to either, moves in perfect balance, because at each stride he brings up his propellers to the

point directly beneath his centre of gravity ; but the moment he receives a rider or other burthen, that centre is shifted forward ; for, the seat which convenience most readily resorts to for the saddle or back-band, just behind the withers, and on which we impose all the burthens we lay upon the animal, is so situated, that a heavy body placed there does not press over the point where the weight of the *unencumbered* animal is concentrated, but several inches in advance of it. The new centre of gravity of the whole mass is thus shifted forward to an intermediate point, more or less in advance of that to which the animal in his wild state had been accustomed, and beyond which nature has not taught him to bring up his propellers. The consequence is, that his hind legs now act at a disadvantage, and the animal, to make up for their diminished deficiency, has recourse to his fore legs as instruments not only of support but of progression.

This is the first fatal step ; it leads directly to all the evils that usually beset this noble creature. The fore legs having now assumed the office of propellers, must, as we have already seen, come to the ground in a state of contraction, and as their structure precludes contraction at any joint except

that of the knee, they now come to the ground with a bend at that joint, and are thus at once converted from the straight and firm supporters, which they were before the change of the centre of gravity, into a pair of bent and tottering props, ready at the least trip or interruption to collapse beneath their burthen. Thus, the direct and immediate consequence of the first false step is, that the horse becomes a stumbler, and is continually subject to the danger of breaking his knees. But further, the bending of the knee, however slight, shortens more or less the height of the support afforded to the fore quarter by the leg; and it is a well-known fact, that if a weight be carried between two points, one of which is lower than the other, as if a hand-barrow be borne between a long and short man, the burthen falls more heavily on the latter. But without that bending of the knee the animal is unable to compensate for the loss of power which he now experiences in his true propellers; the next step towards destruction which he therefore takes, is to make up for this loss of height in his anterior supporters, made necessary by that compensation for the loss of power in his hind legs to which I have just adverted, by straightening out his pasterns, and

standing as it were on his toes. This restores the level, and relieves the fore legs from that increased burthen to which the bending of the knee had subjected them; but it doubles the risk of stumbling, and brings on directly every one of that multiplicity of diseases to which the forefoot and leg are so notoriously subject.

For the pastern now, instead of acting as an oblique spring interposed between the hoof and the rest of the limb for the prevention of excessive concussion, becomes a direct and rigid prolongation of the shank, and so communicates to the whole limb; and to that delicate plate of muscles which forms its only attachment to the rest of the frame, the shock of every stroke of the hoof against the ground. If we begin at the hoof, and trace the direct consequences upwards, we shall find first that the hoof, no longer resting flat on the ground, but bearing chiefly on the toe, becomes liable to contraction, both directly from the resistance of the iron shoe, and indirectly (which is the most frequent symptom) from internal inflammation resulting from the same cause; that the small bones of the foot, *squeezed* together by the weight resting directly on the extremity of the coffin bone, are all in their turn liable to inflam-

mation at their points of juncture, the navicular bone especially, which is so often the seat of the worst cases of lameness, that the deposit of bone being stimulated by the pressure and concussion to which all the parts are thus exposed, the joints become liable to callosities and bony enlargements, which too frequently involve the whole foot in some of the worst species of unsoundness, in shape of ossified cartilages and ringbone. Following the mischief up the leg, we next find the back sinew, which nature only designed for the purpose of lifting the foot and contracting the pastern, deprived of all opportunity of exercising its proper functions, and so exposed to these enlargements consequent on that state of relaxation, so often mistaken for sprain in the back sinew. Ascending higher, we find increased tendency to bony deposits, consequent on accumulated concussion of the parts promoting the formation of enlarged splents, which, though callous in themselves, almost invariably produce lameness when they exceed very limited dimensions, by pressing against and irritating the sensitive sheaths of the tendons which play over and beside them; and finally carrying our investigation to the upper extremity of the limb (with the cursory remark

that this tendency to increased bony deposits, caused by accumulated concussion consequent on the straightening out of the pastern joint, will affect the bones of the arm and shoulder as well as those of the foot and shank), we find the plate of muscles forming the attachment by which the blade-bone is fixed to the trunk suffering as well as the rest of the limb from the same evils; the shock of every stroke of the hoof against the ground, no longer broken by the elastic play of the pastern joint, being communicated directly to these fibres, which, not being designed by nature for resisting such concussions, are often affected by inflammation and even rupture, producing the most serious cases of shoulder lameness.

But the evil does not rest here; this bending of the knee and straightening of the pasterns necessarily throws the fore feet backward; these now standing in the way of the hind feet, the latter also fall back from their proper position, thus aggravating the evil already existing by throwing a still further burthen upon the fore feet, which, again yielding to the increased bending of the knees and greater erectness of the pasterns, called for by the increasing necessity for finding some progressive power independent of the true pro-



pellers, creep back a little farther, and push the hind feet more and more from their natural position, till the latter, no longer resting flat on the ground under an oblique pastern, but propped on the toes with the pastern extending similarly to the fore feet, become liable to similar evils, only that those bony deposits which are the invariable accompaniments of concussion, taking the form of splents on the shank bone of the fore leg, assume the more formidable character of spavin in the joint of the hock.

Such are the pains by which nature admonishes us of the abuse of any of her provisions; and as her arrangements have been systematically disregarded, time out of mind, by the manner in which we task our beasts of burthen, it is not surprising that, with the addition of other similar abuses conjointly, they should be productive of evil consequences to the horse generally, and that he should come into the world with an inclination to a faulty carriage, and predisposed to disease.

## CHAP. IV.

## THE CENTRE OF GRAVITY RESTORED. — DISORGANISATION PREVENTED.

It is obvious that all those evils would have been avoided if, in first subjugating the horse to his uses, man had either taken means to adapt the burthen to the figure of the animal, so as not to disturb the natural centre of gravity, in which case the horse would have preserved his balance without any alteration in extent of his action ; or else, before imposing the burthen, had trained the animal to a new and extended action, such as would adapt itself to that new distribution of the weight to be carried ; in which latter case the natural balance would be exchanged for an artificial one, but the animal would still move in equilibrium, and so escape the consequence of being thrown on other resources for motion than on those which nature has provided.

It is equally obvious now, that in seeking to restore the animal to a proper use of his powers,

and to preserve him from the innumerable ills that attend on the perversion of those purposes of nature of which he has been made the victim and example, it is open to the trainer either to exert himself to bring the animal back to the natural balance of the wild horse, and then to impose his burthen in such a way as not to disturb that balance, or else to extend the natural action sufficiently to prepare him for the reception of a burthen imposed in the usual manner. That the former course is the one more strictly agreeable to the provisions of nature, I do not doubt, and that in not adopting it we expose ourselves to some bad consequences, I am well persuaded; still the difficulty of making any convenient arrangement for draught or burthen which does not conform to the adopted seat behind the withers, and the immemorial adhesion of society to the long-established mode of harnessing and saddling, render it almost impossible that it should get practically that preference to which in principle it is entitled.

The only course open to the breaker or trainer is the latter of the two mentioned, it being efficacious not only for the full development of the powers of the animal, but also for complete pre-

vention and even cure of those ailments which I have already enumerated.

The earlier the creature can be put into the hands of the trainer for this purpose the better. The cervical and dorsal vertebræ, which must in most cases receive a new direction, are after the age of three years comparatively stiff and settled in that false position to which I have adverted as being more or less entailed on the whole equine race in these countries. It may be compared to the prevailing stooped shoulders and narrow chests of the population of crowded manufacturing towns; and as the drill-serjeant, in forming recruits drawn from such districts for the reception of the knapsack, begins by forcing back the shoulders and elevating the head, so must the trainer, who would qualify the young horse for the reception of his rider or other burthen, commence his operations by the corresponding process of elevating this extremity of the spine; not by the temporary and ruinous expedient of straightening out the limbs which support it, and thereby bringing on all the complicated ills which I have enumerated, but by a permanent alteration in the carriage of the animal's neck and shoulders.

This alteration is effected by mechanical re-

straint, adapted to the varying figures submitted to it. The ewe-neck, where, by elevating the head we depress the cervical vertebræ still further, will obviously require a different arrangement of the reins from that resorted to with the arching neck. Space will not admit any minute description of the apparatus to be employed; suffice it to say, that a yoke or furniture having the property of adjustment suitable to every case can be conveniently fitted on any horse, and will have the effect, in a few lessons more or less, according to age and formation of the animal, of forcing him to raise the spine at the shoulder, being the process, in his case, corresponding to the forcing back of the spine at the same point in the human figure.

True it is, neither in the case of the biped, nor of the quadruped, can this alteration be effected without some degree of inconvenience, and even temporary pain; but it would be as unreasonable to compromise the efficiency of our troops out of a mistaken sensibility for the sufferings of the recruit, as it is for some enthusiasts to sacrifice all hopes of rendering the horse permanently master of his proper powers from their reluctance to subject him to a temporary discipline.

Supposing the alteration, however, to be effected, the very first consequence of it will bring the trainer into collision with another prevalent prejudice. It will readily be seen, that in proportion as the shoulder is elevated, the weight is more thrown back upon the hind quarters, while the fore legs, being proportionately lifted from the ground, no longer have the same opportunity of catching or pushing at the surface that was afforded to them while the shoulder remained in its depressed condition. The consequence is, that the animal at once, and as a matter of necessity, begins to work his haunches with an energy proportioned to the increased demand upon them. But the very operation of putting the horse to the vigorous employment of his true instruments of progression, is unfortunately met at the outset by a prevailing idea, that putting the horse on his haunches, or "uniting him," as it is technically termed, is attended with bad consequences to the *hock*. To this it might be a sufficient answer to say simply, that nature, having designed the haunches as the true seat of the animal's progressive power, would never allow their legitimate use to be attended with bad consequences of any kind, either to themselves

or to the neighbouring parts of the limb, for disease is the invariable attendant only of the abuse, but never of the due use of any of *nature's* provisions; but however strongly the case may appear to have been made for the application of that argument, it may be well to meet the objection upon different and independent grounds: and first, the true cause of hock ailments is not the excess, but the defect of action in the haunches, for the hocks then have to do the work that the haunches leave undone, and the haunches leave their work undone for this simple reason, that if they opened out and closed up to their full extent at every stride, the hind foot must needs come forward to a place where the fore foot stands in its way and impedes it; and the fore foot stands there, because the bent knee and straightened pastern have thrown it back from its proper place under the point of the shoulder; and the knee has been bent, and the pastern has been straightened, because the shoulder has from time out of mind been depressed by the imposition of burthens in advance of the point to which the animal has been taught to bring up his propellers; so that by elevating the fore hand, getting the fore feet out of the way,

and putting the horse on his haunches, we not only do not throw any additional strain upon the hocks, but really relieve them of an undue task, which we thus transfer to the proper instruments provided by nature for its performance. But further, this operation of "uniting the horse," which under that name is so much reprobated, is not only not condemned, but highly approved of, when it shows itself under another name, and in consequences affecting another part of the body. Every one knows how much a "good mouth," as it is called, is prized among all the lovers of the horse. "Does he ride to a good mouth?" is more frequently than any other the first inquiry of an English dealer. In Ireland we say, as one of the best commendations we can bestow, that such a horse is "well snaffled," that he is light on hand, and so forth; and yet, if the matter be looked into, it will be found that the quality we so much commend does not reside in the mouth at all, for, so far as mere organisation is concerned, the mouths of all horses are as nearly as possible alike; and if the jaws of the hardest mouthed "borer" in the world were submitted to the anatomist, side by side with those of the best snaffled and easiest managed animal, it would be



impossible for him to tell which was which, unless indeed from the greater tenderness of the so-called "hard mouth," caused by the merciless pulling which its supposed callousness to the bit too frequently encourages. For this idea of some mouths being callous is a mere vulgar prejudice; the mouth of every horse is exquisitely sensitive; the only callousness in the business is in the feelings of the rider, or rather let me say, in his judgment, for if that were as sensitive to the facts before his eyes, as the bars of the horse's mouth are to the bit with which he lacerates them, he would perceive that his horse leans on his hand for support, not because he does not feel the inconvenience, but because he cannot *help it*. It is support the "hard-mouthed" horse looks for, in nine cases out of ten, and he is driven to seek that support wherever he can find it; and the reason why he needs it is simply this, that his fore hand has fallen below its proper limit, and so has to support an undue share both of his own weight and that of his rider. The consequence is, as has been already shown, that his fore legs fall back, and in their turn force back the propellers; the haunch no longer works through the whole of its proper span of action, for it cannot close

completely up without bringing the propellers fully forward, and they, as we have seen, cannot get fully forward on account of the impediment offered by the displacement of the fore feet, which in their turn are equally unable to recover their proper position, while the shoulder continues depressed; the drooping head must be supported, no matter at what cost of pain to the bars of the poor animal's mouth. But raise the shoulder, get the fore feet out of the way, set the haunch to work, in other words, "unite" your horse and bring up his propellers, and you at once find his balance restored, his action extended, his *speed* and *strength* sometimes nearly doubled, and his head, which used to hang with so irksome a weight upon the arm of his rider, erect, free, light upon the hand, and perfectly sensitive to every admonition of the bit.

Such, in at least nine cases out of ten, is the true explanation and cure of the so-called "hard-mouth," as well as of the uneven mouth, so termed when the horse pulls by one side of his mouth and moves obliquely. In the remaining cases, the cause is usually to be found in some natural malformation or acquired distortion of the vertebræ of the neck, causing the head to incline to a

particular side, and so offering an obstinate resistance to the rein, which pulls in the opposite direction. Putting the horse on his haunches, indeed, will not cure this defect; but if the animal be not in balance, it will facilitate the cure, by leaving the head and neck free to the unimpeded operation of such other remedies as the skill of the trainer may enable him to adapt to the varying circumstances of each case.

To elevate the anterior extremity of the spine, then, with a view to restoring the animal to a proper state of balance, is the object of the first lesson given in this system of training; and, as observed, that object is attainable by a variety of means, suitable to the varieties in form, habit, and temper exhibited by the horses placed in the trainer's hands.

If I be right in these views, founded as they are on the first principles of mechanical philosophy, it would follow that for contracted hoofs, ring-bone, navicular disease, splents, spavins, curbs, shoulder lameness, and all the rest of the organic diseases which affect the legs of horses, as well as those cases of supposed lameness which are nothing more than irregularities of the action, the radical cure ought to be sought at the hands, not

of the veterinary surgeon, but of the veterinary trainer. Such a conclusion will no doubt appear startling to the profession, but if the facts be as I assert, the conclusion is inevitable.

Thus is that principle, upon which my friend Mr. Clarendon has established his world-wide celebrity as a superior trainer, explained and given to the public through that spirit and generosity which generally will be found to characterise the refined and enlightened gentleman.

## CHAP. V.

## HANDLING OF THE COLT.

BEFORE the introduction of the much-vaunted "Rarey system" (of which I am no advocate when applied to young horses generally), the colt was, as an initiatory lesson, led with the cavesson on, which, in animals well brought up and accustomed to their headstalls, might almost be dispensed with, they being accustomed to lead from their earliest days; but now, I understand, the strap and surcingle is sometimes substituted, but of course only where under-bred cattle are the subjects, — it being far too foolhardy an operation to apply where young race-horses are the pupils, diaphragmatic hernia being no very agreeable, and yet quite possible, contingent. I have practised, with very great success, Mr. Rarey's method of subjugation, which, for the purpose of *subjugating*, is doubtless most effective in skilful hands; but for the mere object of attaining that mastery which can be acquired by less dangerous or less complicated means, I must, for one, put my veto to

it. A roller put on loosely, a crupper carefully guarded so as not to cause irritation of the skin, a good, safe cavesson, with flat web leading-line, good long boots on the fore legs, and a careful man, accustomed to the animal, to lead it about the country for a fortnight or more, according to its temperament, is preferable. Some will sooner than others become accustomed to the hitherto unusual objects, and may, therefore, the sooner be proceeded with in their training.

Tying up the colt comes next to be dealt with ; and considering how momentous an operation it is in connection with the future welfare of the animal, as I have endeavoured to show by Mr. Clarendon's theory, too much consideration cannot be given to it. Let the proper balance be attained, and your foundation is properly laid ; remember that by it not only can strength be augmented, but speed accelerated. Great care must be taken in proper application of the requisite harness, as colts are very fidgetty, and anxious to disencumber themselves of the unwonted trappings, which, if successful in, will insure a repetition of the attempt. Hurry should be avoided, particularly with thorough-bred youngsters, as time is necessary to bring them under complete subjection,

and their tempers are liable to be ruined if great caution, patience, and time is not given to them; and considering that some of those beautiful and fragile-looking creatures are heavily engaged, and if properly attended to may be worth to their owners thousands of pounds, he will be not only a reckless but wantonly dishonest man, who, through any want of temper or attention, will permit evil to come to his charge in any shape that he can by any means within the compass of his power avoid. Those "young uns" are full of life and spirits, and will no more submit to hasty correction or rough handling than would a spoiled and petted child, without rebelling. It is by gentleness, skill, and progressive means only that we can get them cheerfully and effectively to render us that service it is our object to attain.

After the tying up has been productive of the desired consequences, in getting the subject into attitude and perfect balance as he stands, lunging may be commenced with. The colt, booted and caparisoned as for leading, should be taught to move in a circle round the man holding the webbing or lunging rein, attached to a ring in the centre of the nose-band of the cavesson. An assistant is necessary, and the place chosen for the

operation should be an even piece of turf or plough, free from stones. As soon as he becomes accustomed to the circular mode of progression, and the "reverse step," so necessary to avoid giddiness and an undue strain upon either leg, you have then at your disposal a most efficacious means of keeping him quiet during his training, as you can give what work you deem necessary when excess of "freshness" demands it. Amongst the many numerous evils attendant upon the race-horse, is one crying error worthy of mention, that is, the belief that he should not be "united" or borne upon his haunches, the ignorant opinion being, that if borne back upon his haunches he could not extend himself; the contrary being plainly the fact, from what has hitherto been shown. Next comes the "mouthing," which should only be dealt with by skilful persons, as some breakers actually effect what they ought without intending it; in other words, they get the animal into form without knowing upon what principle, or how it is done, and are just as likely to ruin him.

Before "*backing*" is gone on with, the saddle should be put on, and the animal allowed to accustom himself to it. The "Rarey" system, of



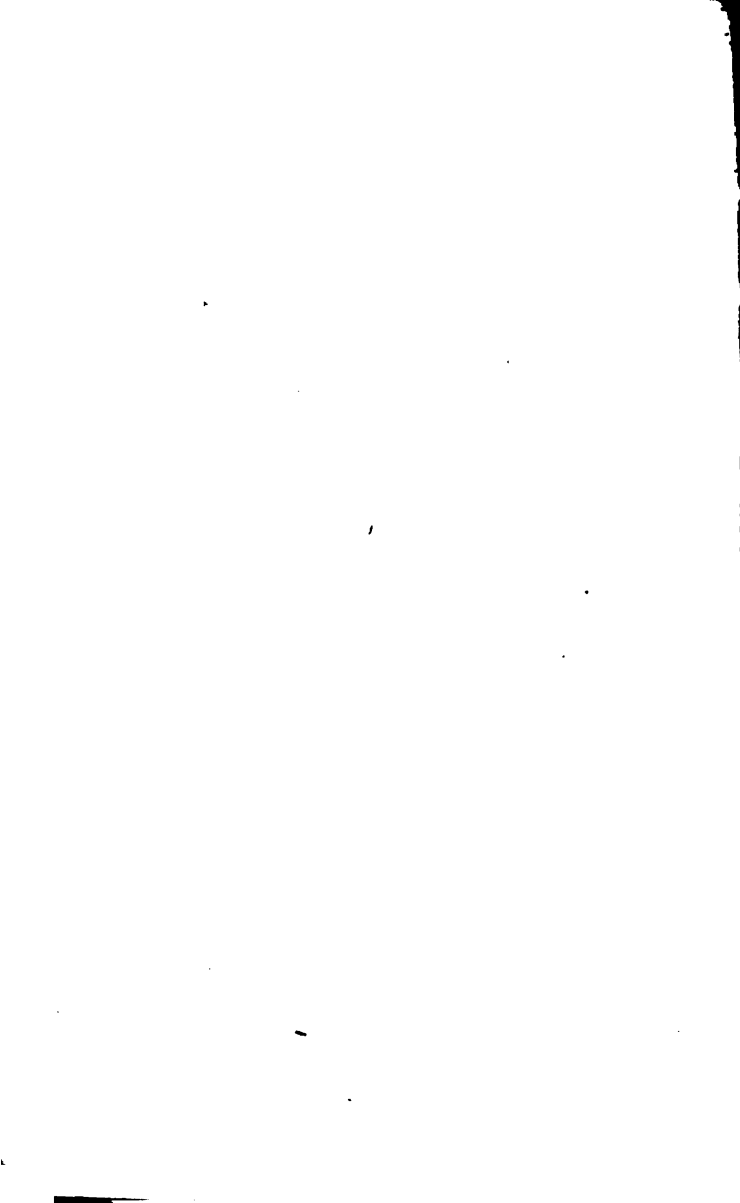
permitting the horse to smell or touch everything with his nose before approaching him too closely with it, cannot be too highly recommended; from examination and observation, I had adopted the habit many years ago, before I heard of the talented American. The saddle for the colt should be roomy and well stuffed. The withers are tender, and in some, higher and thinner than in others, so that it will be advisable to suit the saddle to the subject; when on, the girths should not be tightened more than is sufficient to keep it in its place. From time to time a greater pressure may be resorted to, so that the animal may gradually become accustomed to the squeezing which he will eventually have to endure. Two or three days lunging in the saddle before backing is attempted is very commendable, as it accustoms the youngster to the unusual burthen, and prepares for reception of greater; two stone of shot in bags sewn to a canvass belt one foot long, may be laid across the saddle and secured there, with the weight equally distributed on each side. When the colt thus becomes accustomed to weight on his back, he should be taken out and lunged until tired, or nearly so, with the saddle on; he may now be returned to his box,

and while there carefully and steadily mounted, encouraging and fondling him all the while, and not remaining on for more than two minutes; after dismounting get on again, and off, and on again; all very quietly, and all the while encouraging and petting the animal. When accustomed to the mounting in doors, and perfectly tranquil under the unwoñted discipline, he may be led out with a boy on his back, and led about for some time; when he has had a sufficient lesson he should be returned to his stable without being unburthened of his rider, as it is not wise to dismount out of doors, fearing an objection may be raised by the youngster in harness as to getting on again. It is much easier to impress with little trouble your wishes upon the instinct of your pupil within doors than out, where various things are existing and momentarily occurring, calculated to distract his attention.

There is a very prevalent habit, which is productive of bad results, viz.: the beating young horses for faults committed of which they had never been taught the impropriety. First, by *repetition* make the animal understand your wishes, until by compliance he gives evidence of comprehension; and subsequently, should he evidently

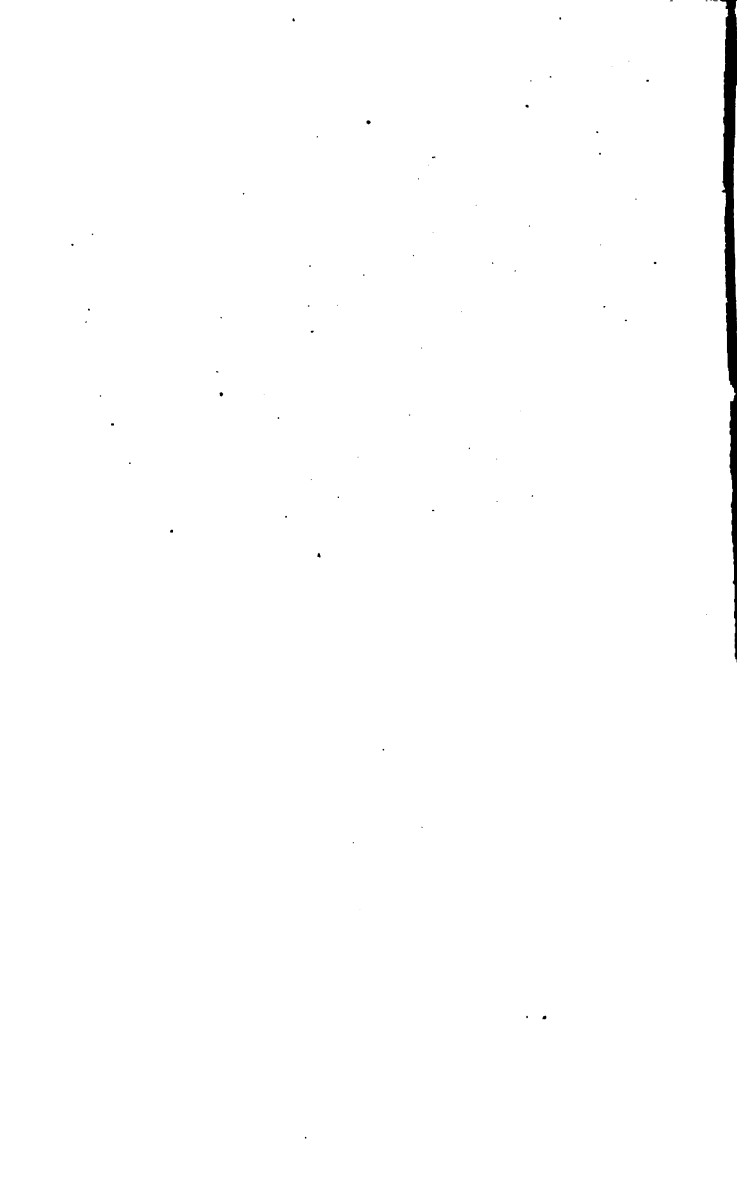
from wilfulness transgress, chastise him as Mr. Rarey recommends, with one or two sharp cuts, and a chiding voice; this will have the effect of intimidating, whereas a continuance of the flogging would defeat your object, by getting up the colt's temper, or rendering him frantic from nervous excitement.

Young horses, when out of the breaker's hands, should be carefully used, and their strength should not be overtaxed; it is the *abuse* of early training, and not the use, which works mischief.



## **PART III.**

### **STABLE MANAGEMENT.**



## CHAPTER I.

## STABLE MANAGEMENT.

WE cannot consider any subject in connection with the horse of more paramount importance than that with which we are now engaged, or one throughout which more ignorance and error prevails, or less desire of amendment generally. Laying aside altogether the claims of humanity, and treating the matter from the narrow view of self-interest, it behoves every owner of a horse to give the subject his best attention and consideration, rendering his useful and faithful servant more easy, healthful, and happy, and eradicating the germ of those direful diseases which apathy and ignorance are daily sowing.

When man bends to his will any animal in Creation's scale, I believe, though permitted to do so, he is accountable for the use and abuse of the power vouchsafed him; and if so, the account in the case Horse *versus* Man will be a heavy one. To render happy, as a captive and artificial lot will admit of, any of our dumb

servants, we should, as far as is within our power, study the natural habits of the animal, that by their application in some degree we might render the artificial state to which we have been permitted to reduce them, if not very comfortable, at least tolerable. In a state of nature, we find the horse roaming his native savannahs and luxuriant plains, browsing at will upon the verdant and succulent herbage, and cooling his thirst from the crystal stream as nature prompts him, gathering renewed health and vigour from the pure and untainted air; no sudden transitions of temperature, except what summer demands from winter, and for which "He who feeds the raven, and marks the sparrow's fall," has, in the bountifulness of His universally extended wisdom, so amply provided in summer and winter *coats*, each for their respective season, and without the disagreeable concomitant of a tailor's bill. Free from man's harassing injustice, he lives a vigorous animal to a great age, until, in the order of creation, Nature releases him from her thralldom. So is the horse, in a natural state. What is the parallel, in an artificial state? Instead of the field and exhilarating atmosphere, we have generally the close stable and foetid effluvia; for the



cooling and moderate draughts of water, as nature prompts, we have the noxious gulphs that the famished animal deliriously swallows to quench his fiery thirst—for the succulent blade of his natural dietary has been not only suspended, but dry hay, oats, and beans have been substituted, in addition to the inflaming qualities of which heaps of warm clothing are to be borne, woollen cases on his head and legs, heaps of clothes on his body, to be stripped off whenever he is called upon to face the cutting sleet, and penetrating blast. This mode of treatment is opposed to his nature—is at variance with his instinct and organisation. For the cool and refreshing herbage and elastic sod, so congenial to the feet, they are in the stable either resting upon hard stones, or buried in heating or contracting straw; water, which nature dictates to be taken in small quantities, to suit the capacity of the small stomach of the animal, is given only twice a-day, and in noxious draughts; while, to culminate the poor sufferer's wrongs, some atrocious and ignorant rascal of a groom commences to give him a "coarse o' med-i-cine," prescribing similarly for the fat or lean, the gross feeder or delicate eater, the old or the young; into all alike are crammed aloes,

calomel, nitre, arsenic, cordial balls, diuretics, and Heaven knows what, that nothing but the most extraordinary tenacity of life could resist successfully. Medicine, judiciously administered, is a powerful and efficient agent in reducing the horse to that high state of artificial excellence which the duties he is called on to perform absolutely require; but in the hands of the ignorant and uneducated professors of stable knowledge which abound, it is deleterious and dangerous to a degree. Likewise, the judicious use of clothing, and the proper housing of the horse, is not only necessary but commendable. It is the flagrant abuse, and not the use of such agents, I wish to combat. Horses have doubtless lived and worked so abused; but if a longer life and greater amount of work can be insured by an opposite and not more expensive course, are we not bound, both from humane feelings and interested motives, to pursue it?

Upon what principle is it that dark stables are tolerated? Will it suffice for their total abolition to assure the public, that from them are derived the numerous cases of defective eyes and total blindness, so prominent a feature in the ills that horse-flesh is heir to, more particularly when acquainted

with the fact, that in his natural state the occurrence of blindness is unknown in the animal, and that man has a stronger predisposition to it naturally. There is a common error, that requires elucidation and correction, viz., the generally accepted idea, that a dark stable makes a horse rest better, and evidence more health and spirits at liberation from it, than when confined in one well lighted. He comes out, no doubt, more warily, stares about more wildly, and gambols more freely after issuing from it, than from a well-lighted one. But be undeceived as to its being the effects of health. The sudden transition from darkness to light shocks and dims his power of vision, which causes a more gingerly and cautious step, erect ears, and timid bearing — (observe the ears of a blind horse, when treading his way unguided) — when the eyes accommodate themselves to the distressing light, distressing, because ignorantly excluded from his stable; the poor animal feels rejoiced at his release from the dispiriting influence of a dark prison-house, and in the plenitude of his happiness, he “bucks” and jumps for joy, exhilarated by a sense of freedom and sudden restoration to those blessings, air and light, his heritage from his Creator.

How can we doubt the enervating effects of darkness upon animal life and spirits? The most hardened malefactors have been reduced to submission by it and solitude. Light is as essential to a healthy condition as is any other natural requirement, even food itself; and an animal can no more be healthful and comfortable without the one than the other. All the horse requires from man, to be vigorous and useful, is as near an approximation to his natural dictates as circumstances will allow, namely, light, air, food, and exercise, with water more frequently than is customary. A short continuance in the latter system will convince the most sceptical of its importance, as generally a less quantity is so taken than when the animal is allowed to drink *ad libitum* twice a-day.

Ventilation is imperative to the health and general soundness of animal nature. The air we inhale is a very different one from that which we expire: the former is atmospheric, and charged with life-sustaining qualities; the latter is constituted of deleterious gases, inimical to animal life. If not, therefore, carried away by proper ventilation, a combination of its poisonous qualities with the atmospheric air renders its inspira-

tion a matter of certainty ; and, as effect following upon cause, if the life-supporting qualities of that air be impregnated with death-dealing gases in insufficient quantities to suspend totally the functions of nature, we have, beyond the possibility of controversion, a proportionate deterioration of constitutional power.

The atmospheric air is a subtle compound fluid, consisting of two gases, viz., oxygen and nitrogen, the former being the ingredient to which it owes its vivifying qualities, the latter serving merely to dilute it, being in itself too powerful. The medium by which it exerts its agency are the lungs or lights—two bodies situated on either side of the chest, composed of a set of vessels for carrying the air into the infinite small cells at their extremity ; another set, termed veins, to carry the impure blood to the outside of these cells to be purified ; and a third set, to carry the blood, when purified, to the heart, to be distributed by its powerful diffusive action throughout the body. The blood, in its course through the system, becomes impregnated with a peculiar matter, termed carbon, which is very obnoxious to the animal economy, so much so, that if the blood containing it were to pass through the

vessels of the brain, immediate death would ensue; the blood loses in a degree its capacity for heat; it is therefore requisite to get rid of the poison, and regain its lost caloric, which beautiful provision of nature is accomplished by the oxygen of the air attracting and uniting with the carbon of the blood, forming carbonic acid gas, a very deleterious poison. This operation being performed, and the air being of no further use, it is expelled from the lungs, changed very much in quality, being in the first place much hotter, and also having lost a portion of its salubrious property or oxygen, in room of which is taken up a portion of poison, or carbonic acid gas; this addition and subtraction of principles occurs from six to eight times per minute. Now when we consider there are other poisons pervading the stable, also enervating and injurious to animal sustenance, consisting of sulphureted hydrogen, &c., and foetid ammoniacal exhalations from the fæces and urine, what must be the evident consequences? That were it not for the timely, though accidental interference, of the groom in opening the door of the stable in the morning, it is within the limits of possibility that the truly miserable quadruped would shortly be suffocated,

seeing that a tenth part per cent. of carbonic acid in the atmosphere would ensure it.

The question may occur to the reader not well informed on the subject before us: Why does not this poison collect in the atmosphere out of doors, seeing that at all times there is plentiful sources of it in the respiration of animals, combustion, fermentation, &c.? It would be so if the most minute dispensations were not attended to in that almighty whole, creation, under the never-sleeping eye of a bountiful and vigilant Providence; and if by one of these beautiful arrangements, — the attributes of the mighty Governor of animate and inanimate nature,—the casualty had not been anticipated by the principle of vegetable existence; it being ordered that that enemy to life, carbonic acid gas, should be decomposed by them, retaining the carbonic, and setting the oxygen, the vivifying fluid of animate nature, free.

Here is an example to follow—a page from the workings of Nature! See how she provides against evil results, certain to ensue from existing causes, if not anticipated as we have seen! Let us, therefore, innovators though we be, adhere to the rule laid down to us, and not, by confining in a close house poisonous gases, defeat the beautiful ar-

rangement of that Almighty whose every work is awe-inspiring, from excess of its merciful and wondrous complication.

There is admittedly a desire on the part of sportsmen to render as comfortable as they know how, their horses; have stables the perfection of architectural art; but a large majority either do not want to trouble themselves by enquiry, or are satisfied to do as their fathers did. An entrance into the generality of stables will forcibly strike the observer with the very neglectful and impure state in which they are kept; and if he should hazard an observation to the owner upon the want of ventilation, he may be pointed out a couple of holes cut in the door, which, as may be inferred, he intends for entrance of pure, and exit of impure air; he has not taken a philosophic view of the subject, nor remembered that the superior weight of the atmosphere prevents the exit of the poisonous and lighter fluid.

The proper means to be adopted for the purification of the stable, will be having a mode of ingress for the pure air, about two yards distant in the walls of the stable, near the foundation, and a similar channel for egress at the opposite wall, above the horses' heads, as high as possible.



The holes over the heads may be nine inches square, and those on a level with the ground at the opposite wall not more than four inches. The working of such machinery can be easily discovered, by placing a feather or lighted candle at the openings near the ground, when either will be blown inwards, proving an inward current of atmosphere or pure air; while a similar trial at the holes near the ceiling will show an outward stream of the lighter poisonous gases. The man must be either very obtuse in intellect, or very reckless of his own interest and his servant's comforts, that after consideration of these facts will neglect the remedy within reach of the poorest or most niggardly.

Ignorant grooms will frequently stop the ventilators with hay, more particularly in winter, either not knowing, or not caring, that ventilation is as requisite at one season as another; and that if accustomed to a healthful current of air, the most tender horse will never take injury from it.

In building stables, I should never have them lofted, preferring straw and hay houses on the ground-floor attached. I would also recommend brick floors, with the barest incline in stalls that will suffice for cleanliness, as sloping stalls are to

the poor animals places of purgatorial torment, only temporarily alleviated by their absence at work or elsewhere. A horse resting in the natural state when standing, will face down an incline; and many in the plenitude of their wisdom expect to give repose, by tying him in a contrary direction to that which nature dictates. It would exceed the intended limit of this essay were I to enlarge upon the subject, and by an anatomical synopsis prove the why and wherefore: suffice it to say, observation of the poor animal's attitude when standing in stalls with a considerable incline, their hanging upon the collar-shank, and uneasy changing of legs, will testify to anything but repose of frame.

Pipes sunk for conducting the urine to a liquid manure receptacle, will be found to materially enhance the dryness, cleanliness, and comfort of stables, and to save for the farmer a valuable addition for agricultural purposes. I object *in toto* to tying horses' heads in stalls; the animals are thereby debarred volition, and must place themselves, in what should be their hours of ease, not as they wish, but as their master or custom ordains. Dung or litter should never be allowed to accumulate for a moment, but should be re-

moved to the dung-heap, which should never be within *smelling* distance of a stable. Any one desirous of seeing proper stable system carried out, had better pay a visit to Mr. Murray, Broughton Mews, Manchester, and if not improved and enlightened I am much mistaken. The more room a horse has, the less liable will he be to diseased legs and stable accidents. Though stalls may indifferently accommodate moderate horses, I should say boxes were indispensable for valuable ones. I recommend crushed oats in preference to corn *au naturel*; but for hard work it should not be given without beans. A thermometer should always be a stable adjunct, and the temperature regulated accordingly. The system of bedding down horses in the day-time is wrong. The mechanism of the foot is peculiar for delicacy of structure; surrounded by a flexible sheath in a horny case, whose efficiency is consequent upon its flexibility, or power of assimilating its form to the delicate parts it was formed to shield and sympathise with, by elasticity relieving pressure; when in a natural state, and in constant contact with the sod, damped by rain or moistened by dew, everything seems calculated to promote flexibility. In the stable the contrary is the case; constantly

buried in straw, they cannot throw off that which is at all times being generated in them. They dry, harden, lose flexibility, and so far from performing the part nature intended, they press upon the delicate and sensitive parts beneath, generating "grogginess."

This evil is easy of amendment: let the horse stand on the bare floor of his stable during the day-time, with his feet stuffed with cow-dung. The litter should be placed anywhere rather than in his stable, for the generation of ammonia from the urine with which the litter may be impregnated, is productive of serious mischief to the eyes. A judicious amount of warmth is very desirable in a stable, and which is quite consistent with thorough ventilation; but overclothing is a very ignorant and injurious custom. So far from inducing health, vigour, and development of muscle, the practice has an opposite tendency, rendering the animal more sensible of any transition of temperature in this variable climate. Let less clothes, and more "elbow grease," be the rule of your stable.

Were we to consider the use to which water is subservient in the regimen of the horse—that of softening and aiding the digestion of his food—

I am sure we would all agree in condemning the system which custom — that bane to progress and improvement — has established; and instead of allowing him water morning and evening, give it to him before and after each feed, giving a full bucket in the morning, a few “go downs” after it; at mid-day a few “go downs” before and after; and in the evening half a bucket before and after his feed. This mode will assist in forming the food into a pulpy mass, for the more ready action of the gastric juice. In the present or more common administration of water to the horse, it is all given before the food, passes out of the stomach into the large intestines, and when the food is eaten, the object for which nature intended the liquid to be taken is defeated by its absence.

CONDITION.—I approach this subject with diffidence. To lay down any rule for the training of horses in general would be truly absurd, for it is only by studying the constitution and predisposition of each animal to generate fat, &c., that we can hope to guide our administration of work, &c. so as to arrive at the *acmé* of our desires; a consummation desirable in the extreme, if we remember that not only the health and comfort of the animal, but possibly the life of his rider, may be

a dependent consequence. Another material consideration is the *breeding* of the horse about to be put in training; also, whether he is stout-hearted or a "cur." The work that would only be sufficient for one, would far exceed what was judicious if applied to the other. Many are advocates for long, slow work for hunters, giving four hours' walking exercise, and only occasional, short, smart gallops. This may do well enough in a bad-scenting country, where checks are many and hunting slow; but for horses intended for a grass country, where scent lies, and hounds race, I object to it, because, for such fast work, horses must be perfect in what is called *wind*; and the heart being one of the chief agents in producing it, it appears to me necessary to give that description of work most calculated to prepare that organ to respond to the severe and protracted call upon its prolonged and alarmingly accelerated action in the chase.

No horse should be put into training after his summer keep, which we will suppose to have been on "*hard meat*," in the first instance, without being subject to a complete overhauling; for if there be any symptoms of unsoundness, they will be aggravated by work, so that it will be more

prudent to rectify anything objectionable in the germ, than have to succumb to its progress when the horse was beginning to get "fit." If, however, in health and good heart, he is likely at this period to require a dose of physic, and after it is set, two days' rest, then two days' walking exercise, increased each day until it comes to six hours, three morning and three afternoon, alternated with trotting and slow cantering. Upon the fourteenth day from the "setting of the physic," he should, if the treatment recommended has been observed, be rather "clear," and looking vigorous and healthy. If not very high, or gross all through, I should merely use a hood and breast-sweater, and send him one mile and a half gallop, slow for a mile, three-quarter speed the remainder. I should continue his walking exercise, alternated with sharp half-mile canters, *without clothes*, for three weeks longer, when, if still inclined to grossness, I should give him a long three-mile sweat, with clothes, where I considered them wanting; but generally I object to sweating hunters in clothes, and contend that the horse trained *without*, can be brought out better developed, and less liable to cold; a very great desideratum, when we remember the sudden changes our horses are sub-

jected to in the hunting-field. With the race-horse it is different: warmly clothed, he is carefully saddled, led to the post, sent his race, scraped or dried, clothed comfortably, and returned to his stable. His being rendered susceptible to atmospheric influences upon the open pores does not much matter, for he is too cautiously guarded; but with the hunter it is very much otherwise. Accustomed to the same stable treatment, and no matter what his original or natural hardness, by factitious appliances rendered equally susceptible, we expose him to a very severe ordeal, which, though his constitution may withstand, is nevertheless calculated to shorten his life; engendering rheums, and sowing the seeds of chronic, glandular, and other affections.

After his sweat, I should keep him at shorter walking exercise, more trotting, and canters increased to rattling gallops at half and three-quarter speed, given as his appearance warranted; and this I should continue for three weeks longer, at the expiration of that time giving another dose of physic; after which, for ten days, I should give less severe work, at the expiration of that time giving a five-mile gallop *without clothes*, at a merry hunting pace, and giving one such gallop



once or twice a week, according to the nature of the subject under treatment. Occasionally, before commencing hunting, horses should be sent across country, to bring into power and practice the muscles in their fore-quarters. A neglect of this precaution is ill advised, as want of practice and power in these muscles causes them to tire much sooner than the hind-quarters, which are always brought into play in the gallop. Hear "Stonehenge" on the subject:—"Many a good horse," he says, speaking of training for steeple-chasing, "has been sent to a first-rate trainer for the flat, and from a neglect of this precaution (exercising the muscles used in jumping) has been sacrificed; whereas, if his jumping muscles had been trained as well as those engaged in galloping, he might very probably have been successful. It has been supposed, perhaps, that his training has been of a character to unfit him for the distance, and so sometimes it may; but more often the defeat has arisen from his being thrown out of cross-country work, with the result to which I have here alluded. Most regular trainers are well acquainted with the mode of bringing out horses for all distances over the flat, and therefore they would not neglect to do what is required for the purpose;

but a great many are not aware of the necessity for this practice, and hence the unfortunate result which often attends their efforts. It is exactly as if a man were trained for rowing, without putting an oar in his hands; that is, by walking and running alone, which would get his wind and general condition into a high state of fitness, but his arms, being untrained, would tire at a very short distance. This is an extreme illustration, it is true, but merely an exaggeration of an evident truth; for there are some muscles about the shoulders which are very slightly used in the gallop, and yet are essential to the recovery of the shock coming down from a height, as in the ordinary jump of the steeple-chaser. These muscles must be trained quite as much as the propellers, and in default of such treatment as I have advised, the horse is almost sure to fall. Now, if any one will watch for the cause of the falls that happen so frequently, he will find that the vast majority take place on the landing-side, with symptoms not of want of power behind, but of getting away after the effort, which power evidently resides in the fore-quarters. The fore-feet seem to stick in the ground, whether sound or deep, and the horse falls over, making

very often a somersault, and at other times going down without an effort, as if the shoulders and arms were perfectly paralysed."

It is much easier to train thorough-bred than under-bred horses; they are better feeders, while doing strong work, and will admit of more liberties being taken with them. The course of training for half-bred horses should be similar in practice, but not as severe. The look, feel, and appetite, must be the trainer's best guide; and without experience, book knowledge is likely enough to lead to mischief. As regards the amount of provender, that, too, must be increased or limited by circumstances.

The treatment of hunters has been vastly improved since "Nimrod," with the talent which distinguished him, *wrote down* the erroneous system of turning out the hunter to grass during the summer. After the season is over, rest is necessary and acceptable to the horse, and were it not that the uses to which he is applied by man require an *artificial*, not *natural*, state, I should be one against "Nimrod," presumptuous as it may appear of me. But as things are, he has it all his own way; for it is inconsistent, after bestowing time, labour, and expense in acquiring

condition, to undo it all completely by an unlimited allowance of green and succulent food, changing the fine and glossy coat into a rough and dull one, and rendering the animal fat, plethoric, and unwieldy, the very opposite to what is required. In former days, when hounds went no faster than a man could "kick his hat," turning out to grass might be allowed; but now, when a race-horse is often very busy trying to live in a prominent place, and that it is remembered six months will be required to get a horse fit for a race if thrown by on grass, the fallacy of the system advocated and indulged in by our worthy progenitors will be apparent.

Horses, however, will be put to grass by some, in defiance of every consideration; and for the poor horse's sake, more than in any way to assist the erroneous system, it may be humane to mention that when taken up from grass he should be put into a cool box, without clothing, and get slop, bran mashes for three or four days, then a light dose of physic, and a light sheet thrown over him. After the physic is "set," he should get three feeds of oats and bran mixed daily for a week; the curry-comb and brush may be used, and gentle exercise given twice a day. As no-

thing can be more vexatious to a sportsman than finding his horse unsound when got into condition, it will be advisable to have his eyes and wind examined; for horses are liable to get inflamed eyes at grass, and cataracts subsequently; also, many become "Roarers" or "Whistlers," from the injudicious manner in which it is customary to turn out horses, without preparing gradually their system for the change of regimen it is to experience. Horses' mouths also become amiss, and require handling until again familiar with the bit; want of this necessary precaution causes many a good horse to be spoiled or discarded by his owner, who parts with him in disgust.

**SUMMERING HUNTERS.** — This part of stable management requires attention, as well as other branches. A loose house, plenty of air, a light rug, turf-mould, sawdust, or sea-sand, I have found on an emergency equally useful, also tan stuff. Now is the time to rectify any ill effects the winter's work may have been productive of. Inflammation of feet and legs is very common, so that alterative food and medicine may be given advantageously. Two feeds of corn daily, with a little green meat and bran, are most useful; and allow me most strongly to recommend one handful of

Glauber salts, discolved in a pint of warm water, that quantity to be put three times a week into a bucket of water, which should be left in a convenient place for the horse to drink when he pleases ; it will not purge visibly, but its effects are undeniable upon the feet and legs, in cases of splents, spavins, bony excrescences, or deformity from knocks, sitfasts, &c. The effect of the red ointment, prepared by Mr. Ferguson (V. S.), of Harry-street, Dublin (which he sends by post), is truly wonderful, and no hunting-stable should be without it, or indeed any man who keeps a horse. I have used it for years, without ever once knowing it to fail in desired effects. The free use of antimony and nitre, at any time, is highly objectionable and injurious.

## **PART IV.**

### **ELEMENTARY HORSEMANSHIP.**





## CHAPTER I.

## ELEMENTARY HORSEMANSHIP.

THE preservation of balance is here the essential consideration, not only in respect of the horse, but of the rider; for if the rider do not keep his horse in balance, the action of the animal will be impeded; and if he himself be out of balance (which would prevent his balancing the horse), not only will that consequence ensue, but his own seat will be insecure, ungraceful, and uncomfortable. To attain to such a seat as will secure his equilibrium, ought, therefore, to be the first object of the tyro; and the formation of such a seat will be much facilitated by attention to some very simple elementary considerations. It is one of the rudimental laws of gravitation, that if any body, such as the person of a rider on horseback, overhang the base on which it is supported, it will have a tendency to fall over, which can only be counteracted by external force, or by the exertion of muscular strength.

Now, the base on which the person of the rider

is supported, is alternately the saddle and the stirrups; it follows, therefore, that the rider will have a tendency to fall off, whenever his person is not directly over its point of support, on the saddle or in the stirrups, as the case may be; and this tendency he can only counteract by adequate muscular exertion.

But as all his muscular force (independent of the awkwardness and fatigue attendant on such continued exertion) ought to be employed in the control of his horse, or in such other exigencies as may arise, it becomes desirable, in the first place, that he shall attain such a seat as will keep his centre of gravity directly over the base on which it is for the time supported. But, as I have mentioned, it is so supported from two points alternately, viz., the saddle and the stirrups. Consequently, if these two points be not in the same vertical line, the rider, to avoid falling off, will be obliged to shift the position of his body at each motion of the horse, so as to bring his centre of gravity alternately over each; and, in fact, this is the method of riding which we every day witness in our streets and parks, and is especially observable in trotting, where we see three out of four of our ordinary horsemen "jogging along"

in a series of these awkward movements, rendered necessary by their having their feet far in advance of their seat on the saddle, so that at each vertical motion of the horse (which the good rider avoids by rising from the saddle, and pressing the stirrups), they are obliged to shift the body to a corresponding extent; thus, not only altering their own centre of gravity, at the cost of much tiresome and unseemly exertion, but, what is worse, breaking up and confusing the action of the best paced horse, by continually shifting the weight he has to carry; a process which, I need hardly say, alters and shifts the centre of gravity of the whole mass, and consequently leaves the best trained animal uncertain how far to bring up his propellers.

With such a seat, the strongest man will be comparatively powerless in the saddle, and the most distinguished figure look mean and constrained. The repose so essential to a dignified carriage, cannot consist with these anxious and irregular movements; the steadiness of hand requisite for the support and control of the animal, and without which both horse and rider are in constant danger of coming to the ground, is wholly unattainable; and the sense of insecurity,

combined with conscious awkwardness, renders the ride itself a species of irksome probation, rather than a delightful and exhilarating exercise.

But when the stirrup is brought perpendicularly under the saddle, then both points of support are on a line with the centre of gravity at the same time, and, consequently, one uniform position keeps the body of the rider over both, as each in succession becomes the point of support.

This seat once attained, the rider will himself be in balance, no matter where the saddle may be placed; for the seat will always be under the shoulder, and the stirrup under the seat. But to complete the equilibrium of the whole machine, it will be necessary to regulate the position of the saddle, so that when the rider occupies his seat, the additional weight may either coincide with the centre of gravity of the horse (which would be perfection of balance), or, where that is impossible, that it may, at all events, lie within the limits of such action as the animal has been trained to.

Then the complete balance is established; the horse moves with the same freedom as in his native pastures, the only difference being, that

his weight has been increased by the imposition of a load, which his habitual action is competent to sustain and propel, and which he finds precisely where custom has brought his limbs to expect it; while the load itself — neither lying a dull weight, like an inanimate burthen, nor jerking backward and forward, like an unskilful horseman — accommodates itself by an easy and spontaneous movement to every motion of the horse, affording at the same time support, guidance, and encouragement; in a word, endowing the energies of the brute with a portion, as it were, of the rider's reason.

If the seat so attained were found inferior to other more easily acquired postures, in any of the requisites for perfect horsemanship; if in that position, for instance, the hand of the rider were less able to compete with the pull of the reins; or if in the leap, his person were more exposed to the tilt of the hind quarters, and so his seat less secure; then it might be doubted whether it were worth while, for the preservation of a perfect balance, to subject the rider to these inconveniences; but, as it always happens where a true principle is the foundation of our reasoning, whatever is pointed out by that principle will

be found consistent with everything else that properly connects itself with the subject, so here we find the seat indicated by the necessity of balance to be that in which all the powers of man and horse act together with the greatest amount of ease and efficiency, in the performance of everything that appertains to perfect horsemanship.

At first sight it might appear, as if that posture which beginners are disposed to assume, from the analogy that naturally suggests itself between sitting upon an ordinary seat and upon the saddle, and in which the legs are stretched forward in an extended state, with the stirrups pushed up towards the horse's shoulders, would afford the means of offering most resistance to the pull of the reins, however awkward and insecure it might be in other respects; for here the resistance from the stirrup is nearly on a line with the direction of the pull, while in the perpendicular posture it is nearly at right angles to it. But when we consider that action and reaction are equal and opposite, we shall easily perceive that any oblique action on the stirrup, communicating its reaction through the outstretched limb, has a direct tendency to tilt the figure back upon the

saddle in a direction which neither gravitation nor muscular action can oppose; so that before the rider can avail himself of the resistance of his foot in such a position he may be said to have already lost his seat.

But the perpendicular position of the vertical reaction of the stirrup, supposing it to be communicated in full force to the person, is directly met by the downward pressure of the rider's weight, and this alone is sufficient to reinstate the figure in its proper position. But that upward tilt, even before it comes into opposition to the gravity of the body, is broken and carried off by the spring of the knee, at which there must necessarily be a slight angle, to bring the foot back to its position under the seat; so that in the perpendicular position the whole weight and muscular pressure of the rider descend upon the seat and stirrups without any counteracting influence whatever:—the more the rider in such a position presses the stirrup, the lighter will be the grasp which his thighs will take of the saddle, and the more immovable the resistance which his trunk will offer to the pull of the reins.

On the contrary, in the oblique position, every pressure of the foot will react against the trunk,

because it will neither be broken by spring at the knee (the leg in that position being necessarily extended), nor opposed by the vertical force of gravitation, and will consequently detach not only the seat, but the thighs themselves from the saddle.

To pull such a rider out of the saddle, the runaway horse will only have to overcome a resistance equal to the difference between the rider's weight and the pressure on the stirrup; so that the more he presses on the stirrup, the lighter he will be to lift.

To pull the balanced rider from his seat, not only must his entire muscular power be overcome, but his entire weight must be lifted vertically up out of the saddle; and that by a force acting at right angles to the axis of his figure, which is practically impossible.

So also the perpendicular position is found the most convenient for avoiding those shocks which are inseparable from all high action. It is impossible to bring the figure into this position without making such an arrangement of the limbs, from the hip downwards, as brings the flat of the thigh in immediate contact with the saddle, with the back of the limb turned outward; in which position it is evident that the immediate line of con-



tact at the seat must be limited to a very small portion of the person, and that directly under the weight. A vertical shock striking the rider here may lift him vertically, but his position will be immediately restored by the counteracting influence of gravity; and if the shock be of a peculiarly violent nature, it may be avoided altogether by detaching that portion of the seat from the saddle, which the command of the stirrup enables the rider at all times to effect, without in the least degree interfering with the main line of his attachment, extending down the entire length of either limb. By this simple movement the balanced horseman moves erect over the highest leaps in an easy curve, corresponding with that described by his horse's centre of gravity, to which his knees and thighs attach him, but wholly unaffected by the violent motion of the hind quarters, out of the influence of which he has thus raised the only portion of his person liable to such disturbance. On the contrary, the oblique seat exposes the rider at every leap, and indeed at every high pace, to a tilt from behind, which he can only avoid by the awkward expedient of throwing his trunk and shoulders so far back as to shift his seat forward out of the way of the visita-

tion; a sudden *grip* with the calves of his legs being the only substitute left for the attachment of the thighs which is necessarily broken up by the movement.

It is true, "this seat of balance" is not to be attained, but by pains and practice. The sitting posture, to which we are habituated, inclines the limbs to a wholly different arrangement from that to which we must conform them in the saddle; the hips and haunches, so little used in other active exercises, must be made flexible and obedient; the feet must be used in a posture directly opposite to that taught by the dancing-master; presence of mind, so little called for in the ordinary walks of life (but which is in itself a necessary attendant on the position of equilibrium), must be cultivated and established; a daring confidence in the power of balance to carry the rider through everything, and over everything, that his horse is equal to, must be so implanted in the mind, that there will be no room for doubt or hesitation in the moment of difficulty. In a word, the rider, as well as the horse, must go through his proper course of training; or that of the animal, in the first instance, will have been of no avail.

Is it not strange, that with so many difficulties on every hand, with so much to be acquired, and so much to be forgotten, horsemanship, of all the other exercises that contribute to make a fully accomplished person, is the only one for which instruction seems to be considered wholly unnecessary? We should justly call the young person a fool, who would stand up in a crowded ball-room without having received a lesson; who would attempt a duet, while ignorant of the gamut; or who would fight a duel with rapiers, never having so much as handled a foil. But custom has reconciled us, amongst other monstrosities, to the sight of hundreds of aspirants to horsemanship, who do not hesitate to vault into the saddle without a single preliminary lesson, there coolly, and as a matter of course, to perpetrate such blunders, and exhibit such awkwardness as, if they occurred in a quadrille or other dance, would cover the transgressor with confusion.

But to those who, regarding horsemanship as an accomplishment, set themselves to learn it, like any other branch of a complete education, the toil and pains of learning are repaid by very great pleasures and advantages. If the educated horseman be fortunate enough to possess a well-

trained horse, he keeps him so ; if he mount an animal whose balance is defective, he soon discovers the defect, and removes it ; every ride, to such a horseman, is an exercise of the mind as well as of the body, and redounds to his profit, not only in point of recreation and health, but also in a positive addition to the value of his property. In the hunt or steeple-chase, while others, mounted, perhaps, on higher-bred and better horses, may be seen leaping short, or “running baulks” at every fence—their horses being in that state of extension which renders them incapable of collecting themselves for a well-measured and fearless spring ; the educated rider will be observed, even on an inferior animal, timing his stride, and uniting him in such a way, as to bring him up to every fence with his propellers directly under the weight, and ready at the shortest notice to throw their whole energy into the leap, which accordingly is scarcely ever unsuccessful ; for it is a very wretched hackney, indeed, that does not possess force enough, if properly directed, to carry eleven or twelve stone over an ordinary fence, though such fence may often be seen to stop the most generous hunter, when brought to leap with his propellers insufficiently advanced. Many sad

accidents I have seen to man and horse from this cause. I once witnessed, in a single day's steeple-chasing, the death of five beautiful animals by short leaping. All came to the point for "taking off" in the extended state; so that the spring being from the shoulders instead of the haunches, and consequently insufficient to propel the weight through a wide enough span, caused them to chest the fence instead of clearing it.

The "united" state is that in which only the horse can be said to be fully amenable to the control of the reins. The runaway horse, as if conscious of the fact, invariably gets up his back, and throws himself on his shoulders when breaking away, and in such a position it requires considerable skill and no slight exertion of strength to pull the animal up; for the vertebræ of the neck are stretched out very nearly in the same line with the pull of the reins, and the forehand cannot be got up, or the pace moderated, till the reins can be brought to act on these vertebræ like a bow-string, which in that position is sometimes very difficult to effect. But the fleetest and most spirited horse, if in balance, will be free from this vice; for the pull of a child's hand on the reins in such a state of carriage tells more on the figure

of the animal than that of the strongest man against the outstretched neck of the "borer," so that to the other advantages which I have enumerated as flowing from the system of training which I advocate, I may justly add that of greatly increased safety to the weak or timid, as well as increased comfort and satisfaction to all.

After my observations on the improved carriage of the horse, I trust it will not appear presumptuous in me, if I say something respecting the advantages that the rider also may derive from instruction grounded on the same principles; for the same system which expands and disembarrasses the chest of the horse, by bringing his centre of gravity over its proper point of support, applies with equal force to the mounted equestrian of either sex. To attain the "seat of balance," the rider, whether lady or gentleman, must throw back the upper part of the person, so as to bring the weight directly over the saddle. This arrangement of the figure is necessarily accompanied by a hollowing of the spine at the waist, the effect of which, coupled with the retraction of the head and shoulders, is to expand the chest to its full limits. And as the blood is vitalised by the influence of

atmospheric air in the lungs, and the amount of vital energy acquired at each inspiration depends upon the extent of the lungs engaged in this process, it follows that this extension of the chest, especially when we are borne rapidly through fresh and pure air, is a certain means of giving increased vigour to all the vital functions; and I may add, that wherever healthy action is so induced, exhilaration of mind is its inseparable attendant. This is a fact well worth the serious attention of parents. It is well known, and every head of a family must have observed, that young people of both sexes, but especially young lads who are passing out of the age of boyhood—are frequently affected with dulness of spirits, in some instances amounting to a dangerous degree of melancholy. It is not for me to speculate further on the causes which so convert the laughing boy into the morose youth, than to say, that about this period of life there appears to be an increased demand for vital energy, while as yet the puerile lungs are not of sufficient capacity to admit a competent supply of vitalising air:—under such circumstances out-door exercise, of an exhilarating kind, is the natural and ready remedy. Walking may answer the purpose, to a certain extent; but after a moderate amount of

exercise in that way, the increased action of the lower limbs exhausts all the increase of energy acquired from the freer exercise of the lungs, and the body can no longer impart any overplus of its animation to the mind. But in riding, where the limbs are comparatively at rest, this exhausting demand does not exist, and the mind at once partakes of increased animation of the body. Taking the fresh air in an open carriage might at first sight appear equally beneficial; but the sitting posture as usually adopted is that of the contracted chest. To the extent only of breathing purer air is it an advantage; but where the patient who would breathe purer air, *and more of it*, can bear the slight additional fatigue of riding on horse-back, the saddle is emphatically the "seat of health:" and, to conclude these observations with an application of the subject with which they have been chiefly occupied, I will add, that the fatigues and dangers of the saddle will be more or less—very great or utterly insignificant—just in proportion as the horse and rider are in defective or in proper *balance*.

Such are the principles which every competent judge of the subject will, I think, subscribe to; and thus it is that Mr. Clarendon, so celebrated as a breaker and riding master, teaches.



## PART V.

RIDING TO HOUNDS.



## CHAPTER I.

## RIDING TO HOUNDS.

"RIDING to hounds" and "hunting hounds" are two very different things. The majority of those who keep hunters now-a-days, and ride pretty "straight," imagine they understand the "noble science" completely. This is a great mistake; as for fifty men that can "cross country" respectably, you will not find five who can tell when a hound is really hunting, or, when the pack have "checked," how far the leading dogs "carried it on." To enjoy the exhilarating influence of the chase, it is not necessary that a man must understand "hunting;" but there are some few leading features of which a knowledge will be useful, for the avoidance of mischief, and perhaps "coming to grief." As a general rule, I would impress upon the tyro the advisability of keeping quiet, and avoiding thrusting himself forward at the *wrong time*, always taking care to allow hounds to get on "good terms" with their fox before he rides up to them; watching the leading hounds; and keeping wide of

the pack. By not doing so, the hounds may be hurried on, and overrun the scent; when a "check" ensuing, he finds himself in the middle of them, with perhaps a favourite dog or two maimed by his horse; and the air resounding with sundry calls of "Hold hard, sir!" "Where the devil is he riding to?" &c. Young fellows are too fond of "showing off;" and a majority of men at a meet near some great city, where the attendance is motley, really turn out more to display the accuracy of their "get up," than from any great *penchant* for the sport. Here, what contrast will present itself between the varied characters! The quiet unassuming *gentleman sportsman*, a *beau ideal*, from his horse to his heavy-handled hunting whip, is a very different order of being from the flashy, vulgar, ostentatious individual, whom a favourable speculation has suddenly endowed with wealth, and a red coat as a consequence; the accuracy of its dimensions, and perfection of cut, can, however, never convey that stamp which is the heritage of aristocratic lineage, of breeding in the man, and excellence in his avocation. No one thing is more repugnant to every feeling of a man of *birth* and refinement than vulgar and ignorant assumption; and considering that it is to the for-

mer order we are chiefly indebted for the promotion and vitality of national sports, he must be indeed a hopeless wretch who, upon a knowledge of the objectionableness of such a bearing, and to whom it is most offensive, would persist in continuance of it. Fox-hunting, embracing as it does in the list of its numerous devotees and admirers various classes and denominations, is sufficient evidence that, like some *chef de cuisine* of culinary art, compounded of a number of ingredients, which, though forming a delightful whole, are still grateful to a diversity of palates—fraternisation, under the genial influence of an exhilarating and manly amusement, infuses alike into the heart of the noble on his four-hundred-guinea horse, and the hob-nailed peasant astride of a gatepost, philanthropy, hilarity, and good-will. In the hunting field, in a great degree, is laid aside that starchness and exclusiveness, which conventionality imposes upon the upper ten thousand, and which, while the brotherhood of the chase presides, suspends some usages, relaxing one of the most objectionable features which stamp the nationality of the Englishman. The privilege thus granted under the reign of the chaste “Diana,” and the latitude which the hunting field affords, should never be

abused. It behoves every man to keep in mind his *real* social position, and not to be rendered oblivious of it by the *accident* of wealth and its accessories. Such as come under this category will do well to become disciples of my theory. From those that possess only the native appendages of their order, no objectionable result need be anticipated.

To constitute a first-class rider to hounds, the following individual essentials I hold to be indispensable: nerve, hands, seat, taste, and presence of mind — which last must be interpreted, an aptitude for quickly resolving and promptly acting in difficulties. Weight I shall not allow to interfere, as many “welters” are very perfect and forward horsemen.

It is only for the veriest tyro that I have presumed to append these few lines, gleaned from personal experience, and confirmed by corroboration of some of the admitted authorities on subjects of this kind. For such as feel benefited by their perusal I intend them; and, in writing them, my ambition soars no higher.

The choice of a hunter must be proceeded with before we commence to ride him. I approve of a rule strictly adhered to by a master

of fox-hounds for many years — a patron of the turf, and as good a practical judge of a horse's shapes and action as can be found. This gentleman performed a feat of horsemanship, never exceeded for brilliancy of action and genuine "pluck." So much so, that whenever the sons of Nimrod pay their devotions to the "rosy god," and the toast goes round to the honour of the "clever" and the gallant, the respected name of "John Courtnay" \* and "White-lion," will ascend with the "cheer of cheers." After a brilliant day with the Kilkenny hounds, and while the soothing juice of the grape circled the festive board, "mid toast, and song, and jocund mirth," conversation turned upon horses and their performance, when the "table-feat" of a noble Marquis, some years ago, was introduced as the *acmé* of all that embraced pluck in man and cleverness in a hunter. And it being mooted that that feat would never again be accomplished, the southern squire ordered his "gallant grey" to the fore, mounting him outside the Kilkenny Club-house. He rode up the steps of granite, thence to a flagged hall, up two flights of stairs, into the dining-

\* Master of Foxhounds in the county Cork, an Irish squire of large means, and a great patron of the turf and chase.

room, and *back* and *forward* over the table—glasses, lights, decanters, and all—without as much as displacing a raisin or almond. “Huzza! for auld Ireland afther all; for love, war, whiskey, or devilment, we lick everything but a Yankee’s tongue,” cried the elated groom of the squire, as, patting the gallant horse, none the worse for his performance, he led him to rest!

The rule observed by this experienced gentleman invariably is, never to buy a hunter until satisfied of his performance with his own weight on, and *with hounds*, through a fair run; and never to be induced to purchase by good looks and flashy action alone; being well aware that appearance and merit are not always co-existent. However, as all men cannot, like Mr. Courtnay, afford to purchase horses from owners who prize them for powers which induce the offer to buy, and that nothing but tempting figures would persuade them to part, it may be advisable to to give an idea of the outward conformation most likely to insure a possessor of it those qualities best calculated to resist the wear and tear of training, and the severe concussion to which a hunter is unavoidably exposed.

During the course of a tolerable experience, both



as a possessor of studs, secured regardless of expense, with an eye to "quality" and merit; and subsequently, as owner of horses bought as cheap, to be sold as dear as possible; I have met such conflicting instances of merit and the reverse in animals of similar construction and breeding, that I fairly own, could I reconcile the discrepancy, it would have been to me "a consummation much to be desired." With this preface, I will say, have a special regard to blood, because the accelerated pace that fox-hounds go at, requires a "bit of a race horse"—except you wish, like Dan Moran on the priest's cocktail mare, to "go a mile like bl—z—s, and then be reduced to a *spectaytor*." Never reject a "queer made 'un" if he possesses good feet and legs, with receding shoulders, depth of "heart," a good "barrel," deep quarters, good thighs and hocks, with oblique and strong pasterns. In *dealer's parlance* he may have a "rum looking head;" his quarters, though powerful and deep may not be in strict accordance with the "oval lines of beauty;" his neck may be loose, and far from that gradual curve, which, with muscular firmness at the base, is so pleasing to a judge's eye; but with properly bent hocks, elasticity, power, and action, "take my word for it," such a

customer will often "polish" a more flashy animal. Coat, as indicative of health, is desirable, if arising from grooming and judicious care; but so much trickery and pernicious drugging is resorted to by grooms and petty dealers that I "pin no faith on it." Colour is a great object with some of the *cognoscenti*, but, having seen good and bad of *all colours*, it has small charms for me. One man will have a bay, another prefers a dark chestnut, and so on to the end of the chapter. Where individual taste is consulted there will be diversity of opinion, for so it is wisely ordered by a dispensation that never errs. It would be a death-blow to general breeding if only one coloured horse was saleable, as few men would risk the chance of a foal being of the desired hue, knowing the great uncertainty, even though sire and dam should correspond to a nicety. It would be nothing short of presumption in me to lay down points for the guidance of the purchase of a hunter, beyond what I have named, it having been so much more ably done by authors of works on similar subjects to those treated on by my aspiring, but, alas! insufficient pen; and whose names, when regarded as competitors for public notice, make me "shake in my shoes," (like "Darby Delany's ghost in pre-

sence of Father Nolan,") fearing I may share the inevitable fate of many a luckless, but emulous "outsider," who, with more ardour than prudence, has joined an exclusive and well-organised "pack."

If, therefore, you want by theory to acquire a knowledge whose practical usefulness experience alone can teach, I refer you to those who have written learnedly and well, or hand you over to the tutelage of some trusty and competent friend or servant, whose knowledge from experience is useful, and calculated to redound to your advantage,

There are horses to be met that will carry their owners to perfection, but, from some peculiarity of temper or style of "going" and "wearing themselves," they are far from being "any man's horse." Ignorant or imperfect breaking is too frequently the cause to which cases of the kind are attributable; and it being far more difficult to eradicate bad habits, than to establish good ones, I should recommend such animals to be avoided — no matter how brilliantly they may go for one master, if they do not *honestly* for another; except the intending purchaser, or some one about him, is capable of rectifying an error that will require the application of time, patience, and skilled labour.

A horse *properly broken* can be ridden in almost any bridle, provided the man knows the difference between a rein and a hawser, and is not more conversant with the handling of the latter than the former. It is quite the contrary with the imperfectly educated horse, which, from ignorance of what is required for his mastery, and want of skill in application of it, is often made absolutely dangerous by the gags and trappings with which he is encumbered; and nothing but a good man on him for some time, a total abolition of gags, strangulation straps, and such abominations, can have any desirable effect. Many most valuable animals are ruined by want of judicious management. A gallant captain, quartered some years ago in the south of Ireland, had a very grand looking chestnut stallion, got by "SPECULATION," who used to perform what I considered feats bordering on the supernatural. His owner knew not any want of nerve, for he always went straight as a line over the most desperate banks and a very deep country. But this poor animal was so bedevilled with instruments of torture, and his rider had such execrable hands, that were it any other horse in the world, I verily believe there would have been work for the coroner, and a step in the

regiment. That very superior horseman and well-known gentleman steeplechase-rider, Captain McCraith, like a good and humane sportsman, volunteered to ride this noted puller with a plain snaffle with hounds, provided that if he went well in it, he was to get a promise that no other bridle should ever again go on him. In the course of a month he was a most temperate animal, and I have seen his rescuer walking him up to a bank, jump him on, stand him there while hounds were running and horses jumping before and behind him. He subsequently won some Welter Steeple Chases, and sold for a long price.

I have met many "pullers" and "rushers," but never one that in a straight thing of twenty minutes I could not bring to his senses with a bit and birdoon—a grand bridle in good hands, but otherwise a most dangerous one. There are few men who could bring a fractious brute to "*rayson*," as Paddy has it, or if they could, would run the risk, or take the trouble of doing so; believing that, like the luckless weight who was carried by a game old hunter in a good run, much against his will—"It may be sport, but d—n me 'if it's pleasure!"

Many of those, emulous of being considered

“first flight” men, are rarely seen at the end of a good thing; others go out more for the society and sight-seeing than from any intention of riding to hounds. For such men to invest largely in horse-flesh is absurd, and an abuse of means that might be better employed: 50*l.* or 60*l.* will always, with circumspection, secure them a mount sufficient for their ends. But for him who has the purse to pay, and the soul to dare, the horses of the sun are not too magnificent; and if he can induce old “Sol” to sell or “handicap,” he is right to please himself.

It is well to get away with hounds, provided you can do so without committing mischief; let them “settle;” keep as near them as you can, without doing harm; and seldom as possible ride “on a line” with them; keep to one side, and for choice, let it be down wind,—for as a fox generally turns, so you will always save ground. Don’t forget you are in the fields to see hounds *hunt*, as well as to ride over fences, for if you attend only for the latter purpose, you can accomplish your object as well at home. The man who rides without attending to hunting, is always making mistakes, and becomes a bore to genuine sportsmen. It is necessary to be a bold rider, if you

want to enjoy the sport, but to this must be added judgment. Keep a sharp eye to the leading hounds; an elevation of the "sterns," heads up, a short angry chop or two, a turn here and there, a little energetic feathering, a total scattering, and you're in for a check—not upon the Bank of England—but of patience. Take advantage of it to give your horse's head a turn to the point, any air that may be, comes from, but lose not sight of what's going on. A "skirter" feathers, another joins, a note of warning and triumph from the "musical tongue" succeeds,—a cheer of Hark to Vanity! Old bitch!! Forrid hoick!! an answering rush from the gladdened pack, an opening chorus, and they're away at score.

All days, however, are not so "rosy"—a dodg-fox and a cold scent will change the aspect; and so far from finding yourself in the first "check," in the select company of those who "do and dare," you are buffeted and almost trampled on by the motley herd, composed of every gradation of rank, from the antiquated peer to the purple hued publican.

Gods of the "spur and snaffle," have mercy on the luckless devil that gets in the rear of such a squadron in a lane-way newly macadamized! or

well filled with mud, and cattle muck ; for being desperate fellows at *road riding*, the missiles sent flying from the spurning feet of their chargers, in shape of four, six and eight-ounce three-cornered stones, or a mingled abomination of filth, is anything but calculated to render the recipient of such attentions either insensible to the shielding powers of hunting cap or breeches, or of the objectionable appearance an indiscriminate application of the kind is productive of. He who leads "the ruck" has by no means got off scot-free, for if not kicked in a crush, he is jambed in a gateway, to the detriment of life and limb.

Let me counsel every beginner to guard against the cowardly and disgraceful act of riding too close on any man's line ; want of "pluck" or judgment is no reason why, if you risk your own neck in your ignorance, you should also compass the life or limb of your neighbour. A bungle at times will bring to "grass" the best man and safest horse. Pace will "floor" the gamest upon occasions ; and may I beg to enquire where is the body of directors in whose office the life of the gentleman giving a practical illustration of the earth's power of attraction over less bodies, was lately and heavily insured ? or what creditor, aware of



his being a strict tenant for life, would be seized with beatific reflections at beholding, even in the imagination, some desperate man and horse, "bloody with spurring, fiery red with speed," holding their desperate way without remorse right on his track? The man who in so doing kills his fellow-man should be tried, found guilty, and executed, in the case of an ordinary sportsman being the victim. But in the event of its being a noted "flyer," the indignity of "drawing and quartering" should be appended. Two years' imprisonment and hard labour for "caught in the fact;" four years' penal servitude for a "second offence;" and for an "old offender," transportation for life. The subject is too serious for jest, and in sober earnestness I implore any who may read these pages, not only never to be guilty of so dangerous and unsportsmanlike an act, but to visit any occurrence of it in another with strong disapprobation. In some instances the nature of the country may render it unavoidable for a few fences, but be careful; accident to a good and gallant sportsman would never be compensated by a good place in the most glorious run.

"Condition" must be had in *perfection*, if you wish to be carried with comfort and safety. The

internal organization of the horse is so peculiar, that it is only by strict attention to the administration of such requirements as I have treated of under the head of "Stable Management," perfection can be secured. If any man is devoid of "heart," and entertains little or no feeling for "the dumb brute," it is likely (for such creatures are selfish) that he can be wounded in his self-esteem. If so, let me assure him, nothing that I know of is more hurtful to that feeling than witnessing the triumphant *tout ensemble* of a brother *chasseur*, as, with his well-conditioned hunter, going compactly and well, he passes you at a strong pace fairly "planted," a case of "stick in the mud," your horse's shaking tail, drooping head, depressed ears, tottering limbs, heaving flanks, and spasmodic diaphragm, plainly evincing want of *condition*. Your first thoughts will be irritating, no doubt; and possibly, in the thoughtlessness of the moment, your gallant horse—that spite of injustice, who against the dictates of accumulated pain and distress, has, unmindful of his own sufferings, nobly struggled on, until outraged nature would allow no further effort—may receive a stinging blow, or relentless spur stroke, unmindful that "his Creator is thy Judge." The consi-

deration of any man emulous of the name of sportsman should be, to bring his horse to the "fixture" or "meet" fit to go for a man's life; and when there to husband his powers by judicious expenditure of them, and never to give a single stride away that can be avoided. You should not imagine, as many "young 'uns" do, that driving a horse "helter skelter," at a rasping fence, with his head let go, and himself extended and going "abroad," will be anything like as conducive to your wishes, and to your horse's creditable performance, as giving him a "steadier" within twenty lengths of it, so that with his powers concentrated, and the centre of gravity where it ought to be, you can "kick him along to it," and fire him at pleasure, as a child would a spring gun. Should a mistake occur, which is not likely, there you are "safe as houses;" his powers being concentrated, he is always ready for an extraordinary effort when called upon. I am apprehensive this attempt at elucidating what I feel may be misunderstood, and that some one may "come to grief" through a misconception of my meaning. I do not object to plenty of "steam on," when an unusually large obstacle presents itself, that if not jumped can, with impunity, be burst through; but then I must

be understood that going fast, and going "in time," are quite consistent. This is the *golden secret*: try and attain to it.

Of light-mouthed horses I have a "holy horror," they are the cause of many serious accidents. Beginners cannot help interfering with horses' heads "across country" more than they should, so it is always preferable to possess one that will allow a hold to be taken of him. Keep your hands well down, and never stir them when a *horse is jumping*, under the very erroneous impression that you can assist him by lifting, *which is a physical impossibility*, and the attempt at it very productive of mischief.

The man who can afford it, should buy his horses a stone better than he wants them, and never let the consideration of a little more money prevent him (where his life may be at stake) from patronizing a respectable man, and one of character, if forced to buy from a dealer. Were I possessed of as much means now as in former years, distance should never deter me from having all my horses from Mr. Murray, of Broughton Mews, Manchester, or Mr. Potter, of Leicestershire, knowing, as I do, that the best horses of my own country (Ireland) find their

way to those stables at prices from 500*l.* down to 75*l.*

Mr. Magrane, in Dublin, has the confidence of many first-class sportsmen, and amongst them "Sir Watkin" and Colonel Cotton; and very deserving I believe him to be of support.

The internal arrangement of Murray's establishment is conducted upon a princely scale, and the blooming looks and condition of his horses are rarely met within a dealer's establishment.

Magrane's horses are always in work, and "*fit to go*;" his stables being within a short distance of the Phoenix Park, the finest training ground possible.

For saddles, bridles, harness, horse-clothing, and all the et-ceteras of a saddle-room, I'll back Shipley of Regent-street, London. After many years' experience of first-class tradesmen, I have no hesitation in pronouncing Mr. Shipley's work to be of a very superior description.

THE END.

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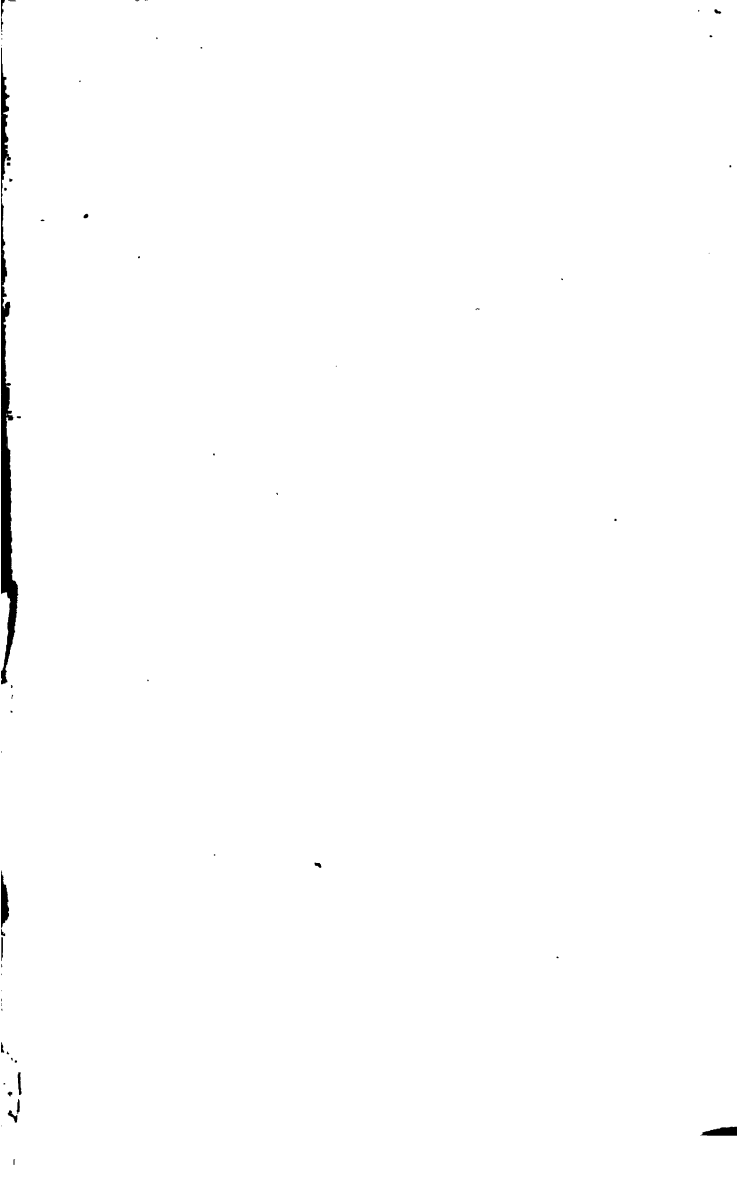
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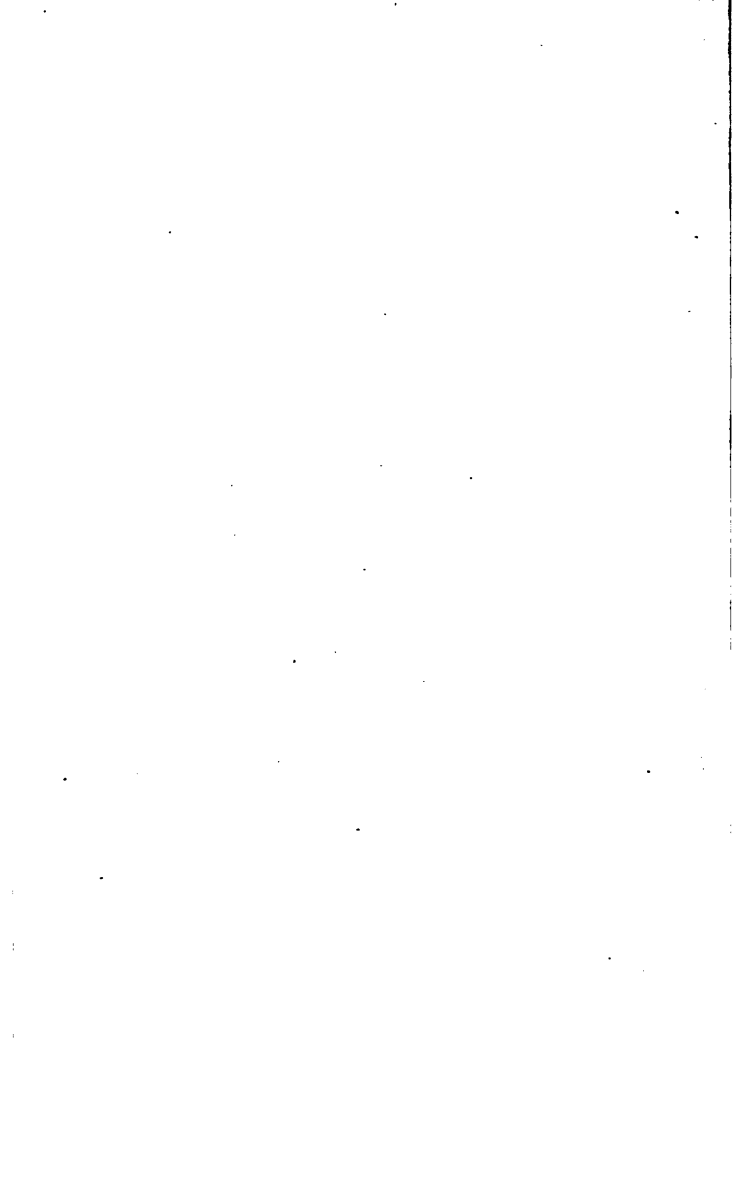
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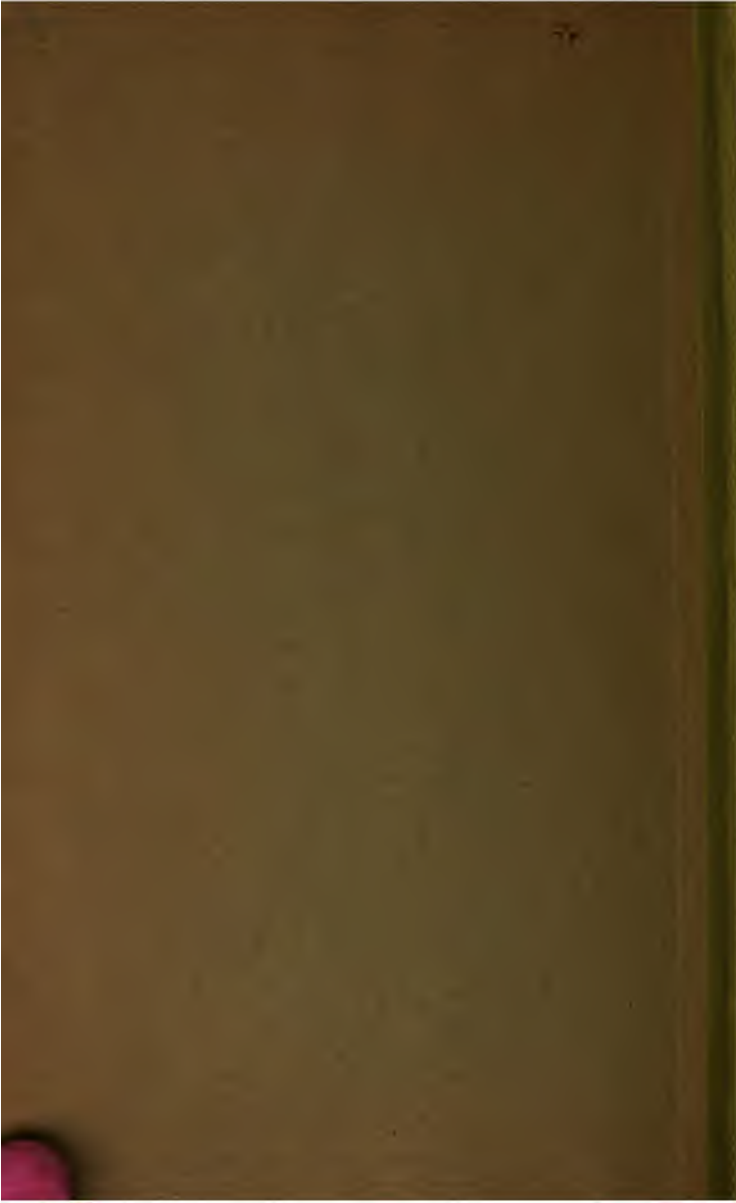
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